

SKILL

Wax resist and powdered watercolours (Brusho®)

Time

An afternoon

Link

Science

Resources

Newspapers for the tables

Oil pastels

For three or four children:

Green Brusho®, mixed in a pot

For each child:

A3 white cartridge paper

1 medium long-handled brush

For the teacher:

Bunch of mixed flowers or pictures of flowers

A3 paper to demonstrate and tape to fix it to board

National Curriculum

2a, 4a, 5a



Year 2 pupil

Note

Brusho® is excellent for wax resist work. It is thinner and more translucent than powder or ready-mixed paint, so the drawing shows through better.

Introduction

You are going to draw some beautiful flowers and then you're going to do something a bit surprising to your drawing, but I will tell you about that later. First, let's concentrate on drawing the flowers.

Practical activity

- * Draw the children's attention to the fact that flowers can be very different in shape as well as in colour, and that the petals can be very different shapes as well.
- * Tell them to choose an oil pastel and draw a rough circle which will be the flower centre. Ask the children to use the same colour to draw petals all the way around the circle.
- * Now tell them to rub the petals, from the outside of the petal down to the centre. The oil pastel colour will smudge down the petal to make a paler version of the original colour. You may need to demonstrate this. Younger children could just colour in the petals solidly. Repeat this with different colours of oil pastels until the paper is covered with flowers as in the illustration above.
- * Next, ask the children to colour in the flower centres with either yellow, pale green, light orange or brown oil pastels, depending on the flower. They could add some dots in red or orange to represent stamen. Green stalks and leaves should be added to the flowers, and insects could be drawn in the spaces.
- * Now explain to the children that they are going to paint in green watercolour paint over their pictures. Older children could try to go round the flowers if they want to. The oil pastel is thinner on the petals, but it won't really matter if they go over it as the petals will then be tinged with green, which will look quite effective anyway.
- * Younger children can paint green Brusho® all over their picture, and the flowers and leaves will reappear where the oil rejects the paint.
- * When the paintings are dry, more leaves and stalks can be added with different-coloured green oil pastels. If the stalks and leaves go right across some of the flowers, it will look as if some flowers are in front of others. This will help to create an illusion of depth and distance.