

Crafty Ideas: **Silhouette Trees**

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A display of silhouette trees created on tissue paper, against a bright sky background

Trees are an integral part of the harsh winter landscape. They form stark patterns against the skyline and offer a good stimulus for art. Any art in black, white and grey can offer dynamic results as they present total light and absence of light. This activity encourages children to explore different shapes and textures as they create silhouettes of trees in winter.

You will need:

- 3 large sheets of paper (in natural grey or stone colours)
- Newspaper
- Tissue paper (black and white)
- Pencils or chalk
- Acrylic paint (brown, white and black)
- PVA glue

Use

This activity can be used as a stimulus for individual and group artwork.

Make

Ask children to observe winter trees. Get them to consider their shapes and forms, take photographs and make preliminary sketches. Ask them to also look at the texture and patterns on gnarled tree trunks, and to sketch the patterns that interest them. This can be done as a preparation in class or as homework.

Once the preparation is complete, ask children to draw a large winter tree to fill the area of the paper, and to then develop their silhouette image using one or a combination of the following techniques:

- Rip up long lengths of newspaper and tissue paper and twist them together firmly. Glue these twisted shapes onto the paper to create the trunk and branches of a tree, gluing the line first then attaching the twisted paper.
- Fill the drawing with acrylic paint patterns poured straight from the bottle.
- Build your silhouette as a collage, using ripped paper pieces in natural colours.

Display

Display the trees side by side. A variety of tree types will provide more interest. Gather translucent paper into rosettes and staple between the trees. As the paper reaches halfway down the display, let it fall like a fan and staple.

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