

# Let's Go Outdoors!

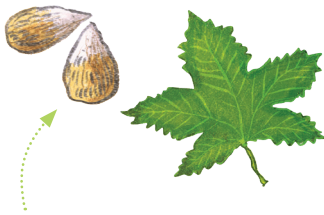
Be inspired, create canal art

## Discover the beauty of canal art and make your own natural masterpiece

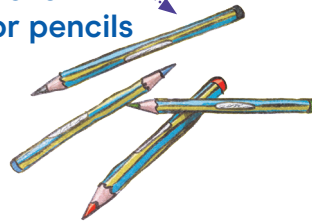
Canal boats have a long and vibrant tradition of being decorated with unique artwork, often featuring colourful Roses & Castles designs. These decorations frequently showcase the beauty of nature found along the waterways.



### What you'll need:



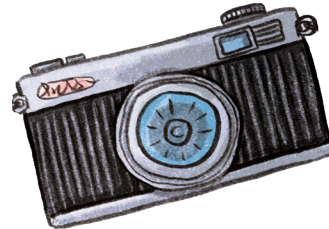
Pens or pencils



Paper



Your phone or a camera to take photos

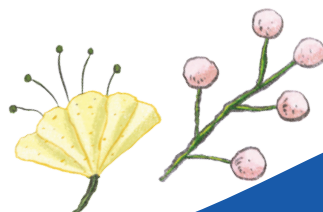


Natural materials you can collect safely and respectfully from your garden or a walk by the canal (fallen leaves, small twigs, petals, interesting stones, etc. - remember not to pick living plants.)

## Discovering the colours and shapes of canal art

Before you start creating, let's look at some traditional canal art. (include images)

- 1. Look closely:** What are the main colours you see? Are they bright and bold, or more muted?
- 2. Notice the shapes:** What kinds of shapes and patterns are common? Do you see many curved lines, circles, or repeated designs?
- 3. Spot the nature:** Can you see any flowers (especially roses), castles, or other nature-inspired elements like leaves, swans, or water?



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## Your canal art creation



Now it's your turn to be inspired by the colours, shapes, and nature you've seen in canal art and the natural materials you can find. You have two exciting ways to create:

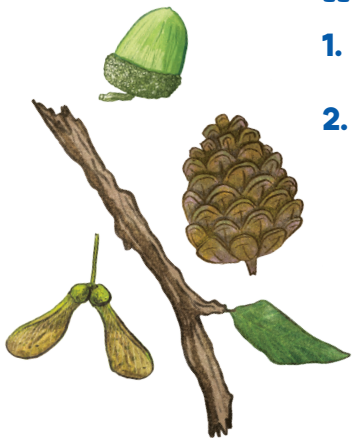
### Colourful canal-inspired drawings

- 1. Think about the canal:** What are your favourite things about the canal? The colours of the water? The shapes of the boats? The plants and wildlife you see?
- 2. Create your design:** Use your paper and colouring pens, crayons, or pencils to draw your own artwork inspired by the canal. You could:
  - Recreate elements of Roses & Castles art with your own twist.
  - Focus on the natural colours and shapes you see by the canal.
  - Design your own imaginary canal boat with unique decorations.
  - Create an abstract piece inspired by the flow of the water or the patterns of light and shadow.



### Natural material art

- 1. Collect your treasures:** Gather the natural materials you've found. Lay them out and see what interesting shapes, colours, and textures you have.
- 2. Arrange your artwork:** Arrange your natural materials to create a picture inspired by the canal. You could:
  - Make a picture of a canal boat using twigs and leaves.
  - Create a floral design inspired by the Roses of canal art using petals and leaves.
  - Arrange stones and twigs to represent the towpath and the water.
  - Create an abstract design using the different textures and colours of your natural finds.



### Share your masterpieces

We'd absolutely love to see your colourful drawings and amazing natural creations inspired by the canal.

**Take a photo:** Once you've finished your artwork, take a clear photo of it.

**Share your creations!** Tag us with #CanalRiverTrust and #LifesBetterByWater

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## Explorers

**Discover the beauty of canal art and make your own natural masterpiece.**

Explore more fun activities at [canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers.co.uk](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers.co.uk).

Let's make memories and celebrate the beauty of our canals together!

