

I'M DYEIN' TO TRY!

Materials Needed:

- Paintbrushes
- Watercolour paper
- Egg yolks (to use as a base for paints)
- Vinegar (to add to some paints to adjust colour)
- Ingredients for colour pigment (refer to 'Natural Colours' list below)



40,000 years ago, tribes in Europe, Australia, and Indonesia painted images of hunters and herders on cave walls and had expanded their palette to include many colours¹⁰. Pigments for these paints included sap, berry juices, dried plants and roots, and many minerals.











Paints these days are often filled with chemicals and unnatural products. However, you can often achieve beautiful colours from materials from the Earth around you!

Students are going to create their own masterpiece inspired by old techniques of using natural stains.

They are encouraged to experiment with a variety of materials from the list below. Remember to wear old clothing or an apron as many of these materials can stain clothing.

¹⁰ The Colorful History of Paint. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.earthdate.org/colorful-history-of-paint>

Natural Colours

-  **Red/Orange** – paprika, chilli powder, blackberries
-  **Yellow** – crabapples, the outer skin of an onion, turmeric, some yellow flowers
-  **Green** – copper (or mix blue and yellow), boiled spinach
-  **Blue** – blueberry juice with distilled vinegar, red cabbage with baking soda
-  **Purple** – blackberries, frozen blueberries, elderberries, blackcurrants, redcurrants, bilberries, raspberries, strawberries, beets, purple cabbage (boiled), grape juice, red onion
-  **Pink** – strawberries, cherries and cranberries
-  **Brown** – dirt, coffee, tea bags, avocados
-  **Grey** – wood ash, black beans
-  **White** – chalk
-  **Black** – soot or charcoal

Instructions:

Step One: Mix some egg yolks into created dyes (you might want to experiment with boiling some materials and adding vinegar to achieve desired colours).

Step Two: Once you have created some colours, use them to paint the nature outside! It can be a close up of a beautiful leaf or a landscape of your school's field. Whatever you like! But it must celebrate nature in some way.