



Make your own...

Pattern patchwork



UNIVERSITY
OF LEEDS

You will need:

- Crayons or coloured pencils
- Plain paper
- Magnifying glass (optional)
- Sticky tape or glue

Instructions

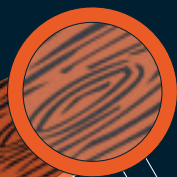
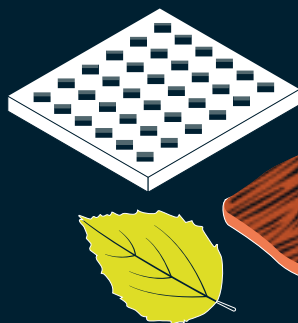
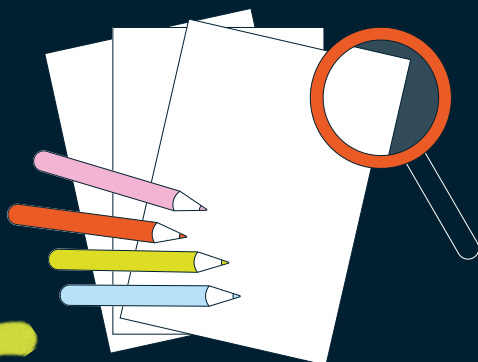


Safety note

Always stay with an adult when exploring outdoors. Watch for roads, bikes, or sharp surfaces, and ask before touching anything that might be unsafe.

1. Gather your tools

Grab your crayons or pencils (and magnifying glass if you have one) and go for a walk in your neighbourhood.

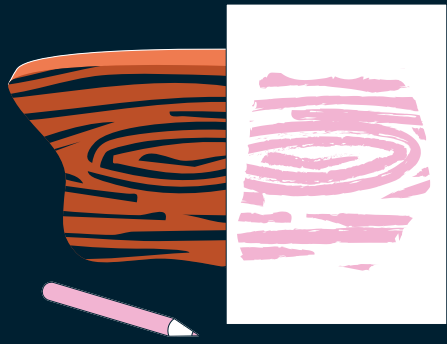


2. Find your textures

Look for textured surfaces — tree bark, pavements, bricks, leaves, fences, or stones.

3. Make some rubbings

Hold your paper over the surface and gently rub your crayon or pencil sideways. Watch the hidden pattern appear!



4. Collect your textures

Try making rubbings from different places — indoors, outdoors, smooth, rough, natural, and man-made. Label where each came from.



When you have a few, compare them. Which look the same? Which are different? What do you notice about the lines and shapes?

5. Create a collage

Use your rubbings to make a collage. Build a city, grow a woodland, or invent your own world using the patterns you've found!

Now try this!

A tessellation is when a shape fits together with no gaps, like tiles or a checkerboard pattern. Trace or draw over one of your rubbings a few times and try to make the pattern fit together — you might need to add to the pattern, and that's ok!



Inspired by research

This activity is inspired by the research of Hannah Sabapathy, an artist and designer at the University of Leeds. She studies how patterns and fabrics travel between countries and change as they do.

In her PhD, Hannah looked at South Asian textiles and the British versions made in the 1800s. She worked with the University's International Textile Collection, which has colourful woven and embroidered samples from Kashmir and Europe. These show how ideas were shared, borrowed, and adapted — some celebrating other cultures, some copying or changing each other's work.

By studying these textiles, Hannah looks at how copying and cutting can be a way of understanding history and identity. She's interested in what happens when one pattern inspires another, and how designs can hold memories of where they came from.

When you make your own pattern rubbings and mix them together, you're exploring the same ideas. Each pattern you create has its own story to tell!

DOI: 10.48785/100/381

This work is an open access publication distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution NonCommercial NoDerivatives license (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>)