

# Mushroom Forest

This lesson will introduce the children to multiple methods of creative art: sculpting, modelling and blow-painting. The children will develop their creative skills, art and design techniques and will gain experience using a range of materials. This activity will also demonstrate to the children how, often, there is more happening than meets the eye, so will encourage critical thinking.



**KS2 Art Lesson Plan**  
1 hour

## Equipment

- Sponges
- Straws, 1 per child.
- Watercolour paints and paint trays
- Plasticine or modelling clay
- 5x sheets of A4 card & 5x A3 paper
- Wool or string, cut into 30cm lengths
- 5x Mesh, or netting, cut to a4 size
- Coloured sugar paper (optional)

## Key learning outcomes

- Developed creativity
- Developed design techniques
- Team working skills
- Developed artistry
- Critical thinking
- Knowledge of the history of art
- Experience using different materials

Time	Activity
10 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Split the class into 5 groups</li> <li>■ Each group begins by painting the A4 card brown, like soil.</li> <li>■ The children should hold a handful of wool above the card and let it slowly fall down, leaving it where it lands. This is mycelium: the thread-like body of fungi that live inside the host substance (wood, straw etc.). This is the main body of the fungi, and the mushrooms that we see above the surface are just a small part of a larger whole; similar to an iceberg.</li> <li>■ The mesh should then be laid on top of the mycelium. This is the outer, visible portion of the host</li> </ul>
20 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Using the plasticine, the children should construct their mushroom cap. They can be any shape, design or size they like, but you might like to display some images of common native mushrooms that the children could copy. For a more challenging exercise, the children might like to make a fan with the sugar paper, bend it into a circle and mould the cap around it to represent a mushroom's gills</li> <li>■ The children will need to make their mushroom's stalk base wide enough to balance and sustain the weight of the cap.</li> </ul>
20 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The children should leave their mushrooms stood upright during the next stage to test their strength.</li> <li>■ Next the children will be making their forest backdrop. They should use browns and greens for the forest. They can add a blue sky if they wish.</li> <li>■ Mixing the paints with water on the paint tray, the children should pick up the paint mix with the pipette and place a blob at the bottom of the paper. Using a straw, they should then blow the paint upwards to form a tree trunk. More paint can be added at points along the trunk and blown outwards to make branches. Ensure each child has a go.</li> <li>■ When the paint has dried, the children should colour the leaves of their trees to complete the forest. Using the sponges, they should dab green paint amongst their branches.</li> </ul>
10 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Now the children should assemble their forest scene. Bending their A3 paper forward in two places should mean the paper will stand upright. The children then need to place their mycelium map inside their 3D forest and stand their mushrooms upright. They may like to push down on the base of their mushrooms to stick them to the map.</li> </ul>



## Homework

Research 2 artists who use nature as inspiration or natural materials in their art: one classical artist and one modern artist.