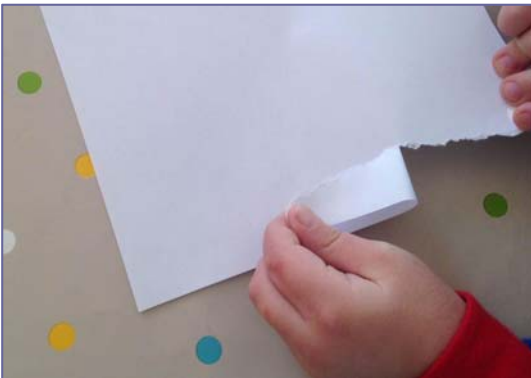


Ancient Scrolls



See our Facebook page for more photos of this activity!

I've heard so many times that you can make paper look old by painting it with tea, that I thought it was time we tried it out for ourselves.

Equipment

Very strong cold tea (the stronger the better)

Paintbrushes

Paper

A place to leave the paper to dry overnight!

Ribbon or string to tie up the scroll, or

Wax seals to seal it

Clean dry bottles (J20 size) (optional)

Coloured pencils etc

Method

1. Tear a small strip of paper off the top and bottom edge of the paper to give it rough edges. Don't worry if the paper ends up a bit crumpled, it just adds to the aged effect.
2. Lay the paper on a waterproof surface. Give the children a paintbrush and a cup of cold tea (no milk or sugar).
3. Paint the whole of the sheet of paper with tea, it doesn't need to be even, Make sure you paint both sides for the best effect.
4. Being careful of drips, hang the paper up to dry. (This will take several hours near a radiator, or overnight.)
5. When the paper is dry, write or draw a picture on it. We did treasure maps, but it could be secret messages or ancient curses, etc.
6. Then roll it into a scroll and tie a short length of ribbon around it.
7. If you want to send a message in a bottle, roll the paper tightly and tie it with string but leave one end long enough to trail out of the neck of the bottle. Otherwise you'll have to break the bottle to get the paper out!
8. Alternatively fold the paper into three and seal with wax (see our factsheet on Wax Seals for more details).

Note

It is easier to write on the scrolls *before* you paint them, but if you want to use felt tips or paint, they must be applied after the antiquing process, otherwise they run.

Areas of learning and development:

EAD Expressive Arts and Design

PSED Personal, Social and Emotional Development