

Paper Landscapes: An art lesson for children aged 9-11

Teacher Guide



This art & design lesson has been created for use with children aged 9 – 11 but could be adapted to use with younger or older children. The PowerPoint presentation can be edited to suit the needs of your learners.

The Lesson's aims

- **To learn about an artist and their work** – Children will learn about Helen Musselwhite and her paper art that takes inspiration from the British countryside.
- **To develop mastery of the collage technique** – Children will explore collage methods and develop their understanding of colour, texture and composition in their artwork.

Background information

Sustainably managed forests

Children will be introduced to sustainably managed forests for paper production. Sustainably managed forests are crucial for paper production, providing a reliable and renewable source of wood fibre while ensuring ecological and social benefits.

Key facts about sustainably managed forests for paper production

Renewable resource

Paper production relies on a renewable resource, trees, which are replenished through sustainable forestry practices.

Biodiversity and ecosystem services

Well-managed forests preserve biodiversity and provide essential ecosystem services, such as carbon sequestration and clean water.

Growing forests

European forests are growing, with new growth exceeding harvested wood, ensuring a sustainable supply of timber for paper production. Between 2005 and 2020, European forests grew by 58,390 square kilometres – that's an area bigger than Switzerland and amounts to over 1,500 football pitches every day!

Certification

Certification programmes like FSC® and PEFC ensure responsible sourcing, traceability, and adherence to sustainable forestry standards.

Circular economy

The paper life cycle is a well-functioning system which minimises waste, with high paper recycling rates. The European paper recycling rate is 79% and 83% of paper packaging is recycled.

Low carbon intensity

Paper production, especially when utilising renewable energy and recycled fibre, has a surprisingly low carbon intensity. The print and paper industry is one of the lowest industrial greenhouse gas emitters in Europe, accounting for just 0.8% of emissions in 2022.

Reduced water consumption

The paper industry is constantly working to reduce water consumption and implement water management practices. In 2022, around 90% of the water used in the European paper industry was returned to its source (having been reused within the mill before being suitably treated), with the remainder either evaporated, staying within the product, or bound up in solid waste.

Environmental benefits

Sustainable forest management helps to mitigate climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide and preserving forest ecosystems.

Social and economic benefits

Well-managed forests support local livelihoods and contribute to the broader economy through the production of paper and paper-based products.

Sources

- FSC® [What Is Sustainable Forestry?](#)
- PEFC [What Is Sustainable Forest Management?](#)
- Two Sides [Myths & Facts Booklet](#)
- WWF [Why Forests Are So Important](#)
- Forest Europe [State of Europe's Forests 2020](#)
- Love Paper [The Paper Fact File](#)

Resources needed:

- Paper Landscapes Presentation
- A3 paper
- Tracing paper
- A selection of paper in a range of colours
- Additional papers with different patterns and textures, such as tissue paper, wrapping paper, magazines, newspapers, and packaging
- Scissors
- Glue

The Lesson sequence

Use the PowerPoint presentation to guide children through the lesson. You can edit the slides to tailor the learning to your pupils. You'll find useful notes on each slide in the presentation which expand on ideas and suggest relevant explanations, questions and points for discussion.

Slide 2	<p>Introduce the lesson and tell the children that in this lesson, they will be learning about British paper artist Helen Musselwhite. They will discover what inspires her artwork and the methods she uses to create her 3D paper collage artwork.</p> <p>Share Helen's quote, on slide 3, about her affinity with paper and ask children why they think she enjoys working with paper so much.</p>
Slides 4-5	<p>Ask children what they know about paper, how it's produced and its properties. Use the following slide to provide children with a little background information on where paper comes from, how it is made and how, when sourced responsibly, from sustainably managed forests, it is a renewable resource.</p>
Slides 6-8	<p>Use these slides to explore and discuss the importance of forests to the planet. Explain that forests absorb carbon dioxide and provide us with oxygen. They also help to regulate the climate and to clean water, as well as providing habitats for plants and animals.</p>
Slides 9-10	<p>Tell children how REY® sources wood from sustainably managed forests and uses environmentally responsible practices to make its paper. Explain that this helps support these important forests to thrive and grow.</p>
Slides 11-15	<p>Use these slides to introduce children to the paper artist Helen Musselwhite and her work. Show them examples of her work online and discuss the techniques she uses and their effects. You might like to visit her website to learn more about her. Highlight the way she often takes inspiration from the natural world in her artwork.</p> <p>Explain the process Helen often uses to create her paper artwork, demonstrating if necessary, drawing out a design, then using tracing paper to transfer the different shapes onto other paper. Discuss the process of selecting colours, patterns and textures, then arranging the shapes on the background paper considering composition.</p>
Slide 16	<p>Discuss ways of changing paper's shape and its appearance by folding, bending, curling, rolling and layering it. You may wish to demonstrate each technique and even set aside some time for pupils to try each one before they get started on their artwork or you might prefer to let the children experiment with the techniques mentioned</p>

Slide 17	Provide children with inspiration for their artwork by sharing the images of nature and different landscapes. You might like to share other images online or let children conduct their own research to take inspiration from before settling on their final design for their artwork.
Slide 18	Recap the importance of colour and composition, encouraging children to consider both elements when designing and creating their artwork.
Slide 19	You might like to leave this slide on display while children work on their collages. You could play calming music or forest sounds while children work.
Slide 20	Once the children have completed their artwork, bring them back together as a class to recap on some facts about paper. Ensure they understand the importance of sustainably managed forests and that paper, when sourced and produced responsibly, is a renewable resource.
Slide 21	<p>Encourage pupils to share their artwork and discuss the elements of colour, texture and composition. Discuss how they have created 3D effects using various techniques and the impact this has. Encourage children to critique others' work considerately and positively.</p> <p>Recap what they have learnt in this lesson about Helen Musselwhite, art elements and collage techniques</p>