

Making Your Mark

Activity Pack

Mark making refers to the different lines, patterns, dots, textures, scratches and splodges that we can use to make an artwork. Artists experiment with many ways of applying materials to surfaces in both controlled and more gestural ways.

There are many different ways to make a mark. You can use any material on any surface to create one. There is no wrong way to produce a mark and everyone that you make is unique to you.

For each activity, you will need paper, a range of art materials and things from around your home. Suggested mark-making tools and materials are pens, pencils, crayons, pastels, ink, chalk, charcoal, paint, paint brushes, sticks, leaves, stones, spoons and anything you feel like experimenting with.

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Challenge 1

Mark Make With Anything

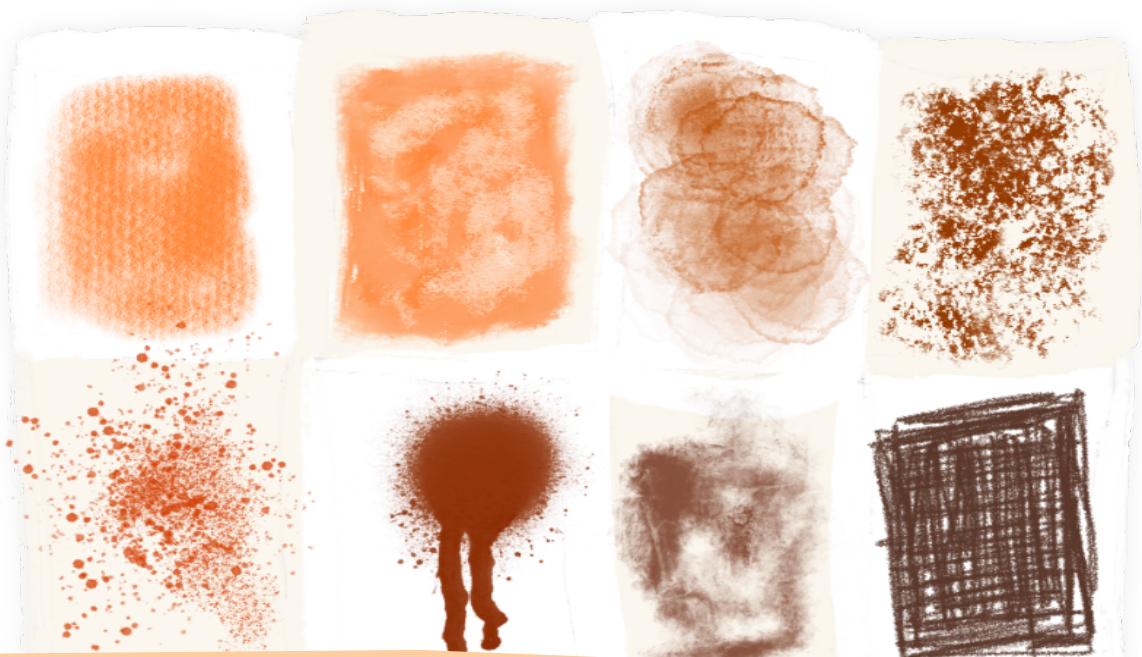
For this challenge, we'll be using eight different mark-making tools to create eight different marks. You could use things from your kitchen or even objects that you find outside in nature. Choose tools that are different shapes or have unusual textures.

What You Need

- A large piece of paper, folded into eighths.
- A wet material to work with, like ink or paint.
- Eight tools to make marks with.

What To Do

- Get your drawing tools and materials ready.
- Fold your sheet of paper into eight equal sections.
- Use a different tool to create marks in each of the sections.
- Experiment with how you apply the ink or paint.
- Try making small marks using a large tool.
- Try making large marks with your smallest tool.
- Experiment with pressure; how softly or hard can you apply your materials?
- Experiment with energetic marks; vary between controlled and loose.



Challenge 2

Drawing To Music

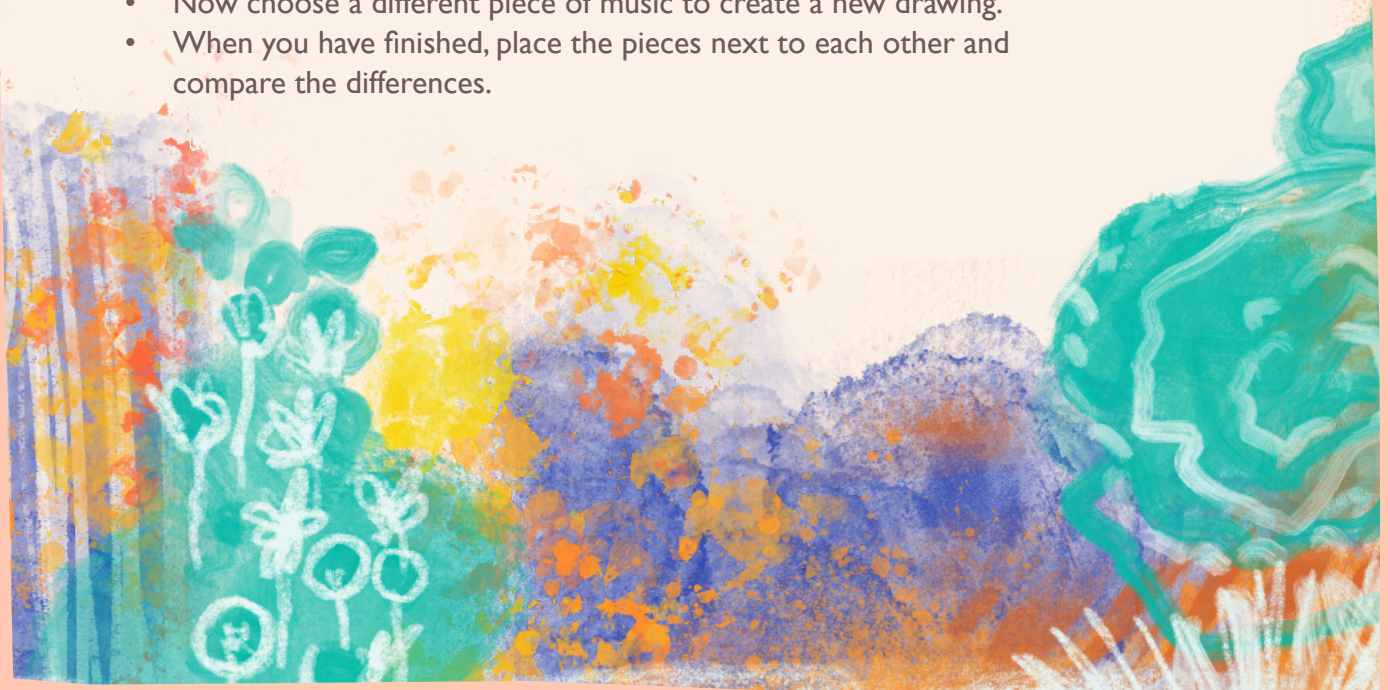
Listening to music can change our mood and make us feel inspired. For this challenge, we are going to draw the music using your favourite materials. Get your materials and paper ready, and choose a few pieces of music to listen to whilst you draw.

What You Need

- Sheets of paper.
- A selection of drawing materials.
- A device to play music on.

What To Do

- With your materials ready and music playing, we'll get started.
- Drawing music is fun, as it's expressive and unique to you.
- First, think about pressure; use more pressure for louder sounds, and use lighter pressure for quieter moments.
- Does the music make you feel energised? Use that energy to create big and dynamic marks.
- Are there any repeating sounds? Could you make these into a pattern?
- What colours do you imagine?
- Keep working until the first piece of music stops.
- Now choose a different piece of music to create a new drawing.
- When you have finished, place the pieces next to each other and compare the differences.



Challenge 3

Spotches & Smudges

This challenge is all about having fun with splotched and smudges. We'll be using different materials to create marks, and then using our imagination to see if we recognise anything familiar.

What You Need

- A few pieces of paper.
- A selection of drawing materials.

What To Do

- Choose some materials to make a smudge or a splotch on a piece of paper.
- You could use paint with a paintbrush, ink with a stick, or crayons. You could use soil from outside or even tomato sauce - but ask a grown-up first!
- There are no rules, use whatever you feel like working with.
- You could try applying the materials gently to the paper or with more force.
- You could even use your hands to apply the materials.
- Make large splotches and smaller smudges.
- Once you've finished drawing, spend some time looking at the shapes you have made.
- Can you see anything unusual? Imagine what the shapes could be.
- Do you recognise anything familiar in your picture?
- Show your artwork to grown-up, sibling or friend - can they see anything different?

