

Collage Circles

Use the local environment and the work of British land artist Richard Long to stimulate collage work. This activity offers great opportunities for kinaesthetic learning as well as speaking and listening.

Materials

Images of Richard Long's work, particularly his circle images.
Information about the work of Richard Long, what he does and what inspires him.

Found materials (if you have walked outside).

Variety of materials including textured papers, fabrics, packaging materials etc.

Glue.

Scissors.

Stiff backing card.

Method

- Show the children the work of Richard Long. Talk about the way he has walked through various landscapes and how he only uses materials in the area rather than bringing other materials in. Use an Interactive Whiteboard to show images at large scale if possible.
- Look at the materials he used, his approach to his work and his methods of making circles.
- If possible, go for a walk around the school grounds or in the local area and collect materials found on your walk. Make sure children wear gloves and/or wash hands afterwards.
- If not working outside give the children as wide a variety of materials as possible. Let the children sort through them and choose what will work well together. Ask them to describe what they have chosen and why.
- The best results are gained from using one material for each circle and by being inventive in the way that material is used.
- Ask the children to cut or tear their chosen material into pieces.
- Draw a circle on the backing card and cut it out. Different sized circles can be made by a number of children.
- Arrange the material on the circle, overlapping and manipulating it until a pleasing arrangement is achieved.
- Glue the material down and allow to dry.



Taking it Further

Try working on a very large scale with children making circles collaboratively in groups. Work on a much smaller scale adding lots of small circles onto a backing board. Produce giant circles using children's shoes, PE equipment, jumpers or any other temporary materials. This could be done outside in dry weather or in the school hall. Take digital photographs and discuss which materials are the most effective and why. Walk in the school grounds or a local park and collect only natural materials to use. Make sure the children only pick up what is on the ground and avoid damaging plants and trees. Ensure they wear disposable gloves and wash their hands afterwards. Look at the work of other land artists such as Andy Goldsworthy, Chris Drury or Michael Heizer.

Environmental Art

Being aware of the potential of materials in the immediate environment will help the children extend their creative thinking. It is an ideal opportunity to work collaboratively and extend social skills too.