


CAMPLE—LINE

SEASONAL
FORAGING
ACTIVITIES

SPRING
SUMMER
AUTUMN
WINTER

ANTHOTYPE, KATE TEMPLE



SPRING FORAGING ACTIVITIES

BY KATE TEMPLE

RAW INK, ANTHOTYPE & SOLAR DYE

Spring is the best time to collect brightly coloured flowers and leaves. Make simple raw inks using petals from spring flowers; buttercups, daffodils, tulips, gorse, nettles all work well and will give you a range of fresh pastel colours to work with. Turn your inks into emulsions for anthotypes or experiment with making a solar dye.

In this pack, visual artist Kate Temple has shared a selection of Spring foraging activities for you to try at home.

SPACE BELOW FOR SEASONAL NOTE-TAKING



RAW INK

CAMPLE—LINE SPRING SEASONAL FORAGING ACTIVITIES

RAW INK

YOU WILL NEED

- PLANT MATERIAL
- BOWL
- SPOON/FORK/PESTLE AND MORTAR
- LIQUID
 - HOT WATER
 - WHITE VINEGAR
 - ALCOHOL
- STRAINER
- AIR TIGHT CONTAINER
- CLOVES

PLEASE NOTE - CHILDREN WILL NEED ADULT SUPERVISION FOR THIS ACTIVITY.

REMEMBER TO WASH YOUR HANDS THOROUGHLY AFTER WORKING WITH PLANT MATERIALS.

STEP ONE

Take a couple of large handfuls or more of your plant material and put in a bowl. Add a little hot water, white vinegar or alcohol and leave to soak for a little while.

STEP TWO

Start pounding/mashing. Use a spoon or fork or a pestle and mortar. Add more liquid if you need to but go gently – you won't need much. The colour should release quite quickly as you pound, mash or squeeze the material.

STEP THREE

Once you think enough colour is released, strain off all the solids.

STEP FOUR

Test your ink. If it's too watery you can very, very gently simmer off some liquid. If it's too thick or syrupy, you can add some more water. Have a play until it feels just right.

STEP FIVE

Add cloves for preservation and store somewhere cool in an airtight jar.

WHY NOT TRY...

Try adding salt, bicarbonate of soda, vinegar, lemon, citric acid, hand sanitiser or iron to any of your inks once you have put them on paper. They will alter the pH of your ink (make it more acidic or more alkaline) and change the colour. You might get some unexpected results!



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ANTHOTYPE

ANTHOTYPE

YOU WILL NEED

- THICK PAPER
- LEAVES/FLOWERS
- PERSPEX/GLASS SHEET
- HOMEMADE RAW INK
- SPONGE/PAINTBRUSH

PLEASE NOTE - CHILDREN WILL NEED ADULT SUPERVISION FOR THIS ACTIVITY.

REMEMBER TO WASH YOUR HANDS THOROUGHLY AFTER WORKING WITH PLANT MATERIALS.

STEP ONE

Make a raw ink using the flowers or leaves of spring plants. Creeping buttercup, tulip, daffodils all make good spring inks. You'll get a range of pastel yellows, blues and pinks with spring flowers.

STEP TWO

Paint a wash of your ink on to thick paper, and let it dry (paint as many layers as you like.)

STEP THREE

When the ink has dried, find some leaves or flowers to arrange on the paper.

STEP FOUR

Once you have arranged your flowers or leaves, place your perspex or glass on top of them (so that the sun can still reach them) and place the paper in a sunny spot – a sunny windowsill works well, or you can leave it outside in a sheltered place.

STEP FIVE

Watch the sun bleaching the colour away. This process can take hours, or days, or weeks. It depends how thick your ink is and how sunny it is!

STEP SIX

When the colour of the visible paper has faded considerably, remove the leaves/flowers. Keep your anthotype out of direct sunlight. It may change or fade over time.



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SOLAR DYE

SOLAR DYE

This is a good activity to do with the deadheads of spring flowers like daffodils or gorse petals. It also works well with summer flowers like marigolds or dahlias. Experiment with different coloured flowers you find.

YOU WILL NEED

- FLOWER HEADS
- NATURAL FABRIC
WOOL, COTTON
LINEN, SILK
- LARGE JAR

PLEASE NOTE - CHILDREN WILL NEED ADULT SUPERVISION FOR THIS ACTIVITY.

REMEMBER TO WASH YOUR HANDS THOROUGHLY AFTER WORKING WITH PLANT MATERIALS.

STEP ONE

Put your flower heads in a large jar and cover with water. Add small pieces of wool or cotton or linen or silk (natural fabrics) and submerge them in the liquid.

STEP TWO

Close the jar and leave in a sunny place – a windowsill or greenhouse is ideal or a sunny sheltered spot outside.

STEP THREE

In a few weeks (or even months!) open the jar and remove the flower heads. Your fabric scraps should have taken on the colour of the flowers. Keep the coloured liquid for ink and dye projects.





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ABOUT KATE TEMPLE

Kate Temple is a visual artist living near Edinburgh. She works with installation, sculpture, ceramics, drawing, painting and performance, and is interested in cross-disciplinary and socially engaged practices. She also works in art and community engagement, leading and facilitating projects for a range of groups and individuals.

Drawing and collecting are regular elements of Kate's practice, and since 2020 she has been working with plant material foraged from near her home.