

SHAPES IN THE WOOD

Nat. Cur. KS2

Art + Des 1a-c, 2a + c, 3a, 4a, 5a-d

Eng 1a + b, 2b + e, 9c

Patterns in Nature

Does anyone know what we are doing today?

Today we are going to explore art in nature and discuss what we find.

Do you think there are patterns in nature? Can anyone think of any?

In fact, there are a few basic shapes and patterns that occur in a large part of the natural world.

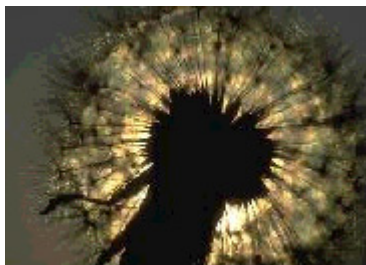


Symmetrical Patterns: Bilateral animals, Radial flowers.

It might be worth demonstrating different types of symmetry with a mirror.



Spirals and helices: Plant stems and tendrils

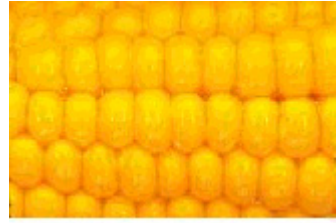


Spheres and Explosions: Seeds and fruit, Dandelion clocks, Toadstool gills

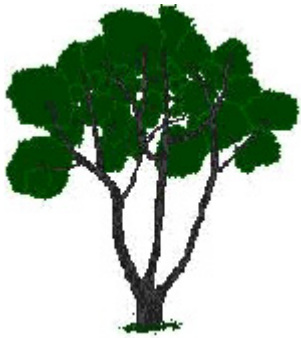




Packing and Cracking:
Corn cobs and dried mud

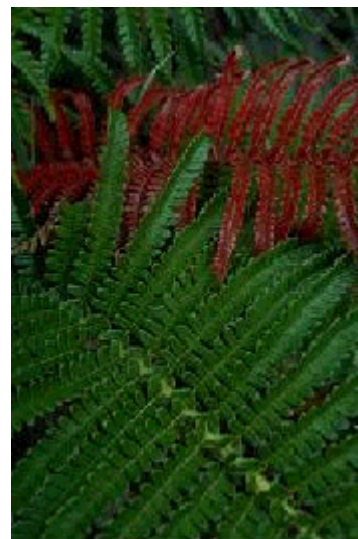


Meanders and ripples: Sand,
Water, River courses
**All the natural patterns offer
opportunities for discussion of "how"
and "why".**



Branching: Trees, leaf veins, river tributaries

Fractals, smaller and smaller repeated
patterns: Ferns, Romanesco broccoli



Finding Patterns

Send the children off to find objects that exhibit these patterns. Have a container for each pattern in which the children can place their objects. When they have finished sit round and discuss the objects.

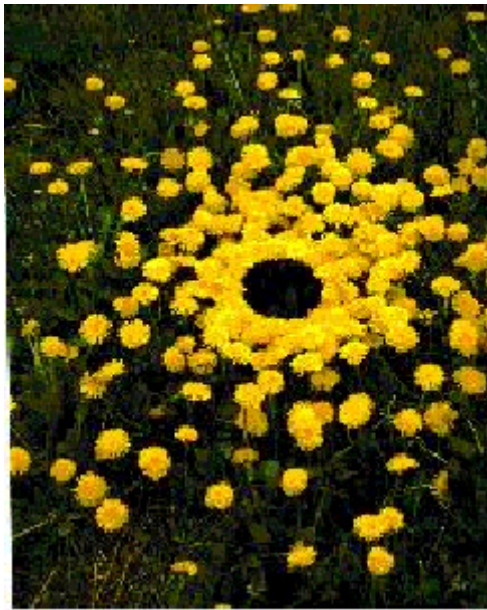
Discuss "how did the patterns occur?"

How many of these patterns can the children find within the wood?

Does everything they find have an element of one or more of the patterns?

Are these patterns used anywhere in the human world?
Fabric, wallpaper design, computer backgrounds

Sculptures



These pieces of art were made by an artist called Andy Goldsworthy. He uses natural objects to create interesting sculptures. We are going to see if the children can do the same.

Using ideas from the pictures and the patterns that occur in nature, the children are going to get into small groups and create sculptures based on one or more of the patterns they found, using natural materials. Maybe the sculpture could represent what sort of day it is, or where they are, or possibly how they feel.

Ideas to demonstrate:

- Using colour: petals, grass, earth, stones
- Pinning leaves and other objects together with small twigs and stems
- Using branches to hang things from
- Using light and shadow
- Balancing objects

When they have finished, everyone has a look at each sculpture, and each group can say what their sculpture represents (if anything) and answer any questions. Pictures could be taken of the sculptures, and if they are completely natural, they can be left for passers by to enjoy.

