

# Natural Inks

Making your own Natural inks is a wonderful way of enjoying and celebrating nature. All you need are some kitchen scraps, a bit of science and imagination!

By using the vegetable scraps you have in your kitchen and plants from the nature around you, you are being kind to the environment and a creative artist.

Make sure to use card or watercolour paper, rather than just normal printer paper. Your inks will go straight through otherwise!

## Vegetables

### YOU WILL NEED:

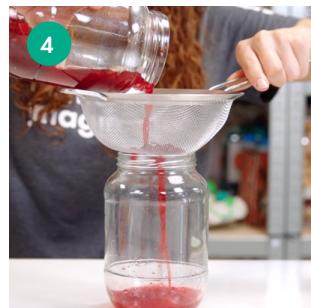
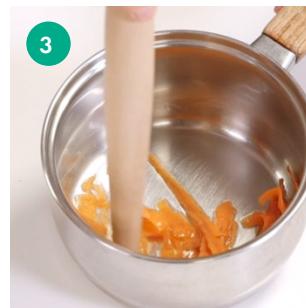
- Watercolour paper and/or card
- Soft Vegetables (beet-roots)
- vegetable scraps (e.g carrots, potato peels)
- Water
- Kettle
- Bowls

1. Test out chopping and mashing. Soft vegetables, fruit, leaves and flower petals can all be chopped into small pieces to release their colour.

2. You can then mash the small pieces so they start to become softer. Add a little water to make up your colour mixture. You don't need too much water to get going.

3. Some natural materials can be boiled in water first to help bring out their colour. When you've chopped up your vegetable scraps or flower petals, give them a stir in a little boiling water then leave to cool down.

4. If you have a lumpy mixture, strain the liquid into a different pot..



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## Rocks

**YOU WILL NEED:**

- Soft powdery pebbles
- Harder rocks
- Bowls
- Water
- Spices

1. Have a look out for soft, powdery pebbles, charcoal and bark. These can all be ground down into small particles using a hard stone and hard surface

2. Have a look in your kitchen cupboard too - you might find there are already some ground up spices you can experiment with. Add a little water to the powder and stir it into a mixture.



## Making your inks last longer

**YOU WILL NEED:**

- Honey

1. To make your inks last a bit longer, add in some honey. Because our ingredients are natural, this means they can also decompose (break down).



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## Changing Colours

YOU WILL  
NEED:

- Vinegar
- Bicarbonate of Soda
- Lemon Juice

1. You can experiment with changing the colours of your inks. Add in acids such as vinegar or lemon juice, or try using an alkaline like bicarbonate of soda.



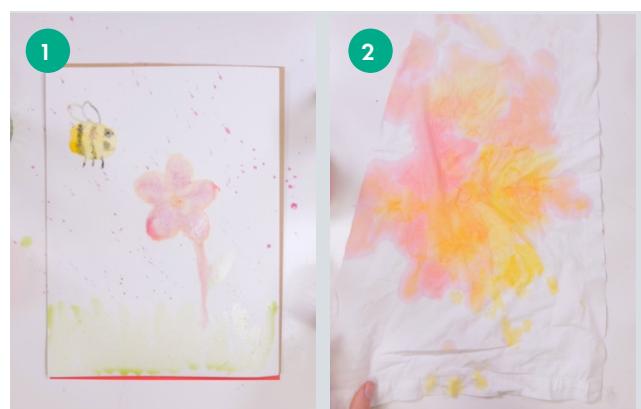
## Using the inks

YOU WILL  
NEED:

- Paintbrush
- Jars
- Cardboard/Material

1. When your colours are ready it's time to start using them! Why not paint a picture to tell the story of your vegetable, plant or rock and how it became something different? Or use your inks to create a picture of something you love in nature.

2. You could also experiment by dyeing fabrics with your inks, like reviving an old tshirt!



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