



SAVE MAKE REINVENT

# 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.

**iOi Challenge:** Create a piece of art, sharing ideas to help or change the world to Save Make Reinvent.



## Getting started

### YOU WILL NEED:

- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Flowers/ and or plants
- Water
- Kettle
- Used tea bags/ coffee grounds
- Bowls
- Pestle & mortar
- Scissors
- Pipettes
- Paint palette
- Sieve/ cloth or paper coffee filter

**Chopping & mashing:** soft vegetables, fruit, plant leaves and flower petals can all be chopped into small pieces to start releasing their colour.

You can then mash or use pestle & mortar and add a little water to make up your colour mixture.

**Boiling:** 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 boiling water then leave to cool down.

**Straining:** Once you made the mixture it can be lumpy. Strain the liquid into a different pot using a cloth, paper coffee filter or sieve. Use the pipettes to transfer the ink to the paint palette.





# Painting

**YOU WILL NEED:**

- Paintbrushes
- Pencils
- Thick paper/ card that is absorbent
- iOi Colour Palette Resource
- Cup of water to clean the brushes

**Using the iOi Colour Palette Resource create a swatch of your inks and record what source they were made from. Then start making marks on the paper. Why not paint a picture to tell a story of your vegetable, plant or a rock and how it changes into something different? Or use your inks to create a picture of something you love in nature**

**Tip:** We recommend using watercolour paper or thick card so that water and ink don't seep through and destroy your artwork!

**Experiment:** Try out different tools to make a mark on the paper. Test spongers, other vegetables or make your own tools!



Use a paintbrush



Try a sponge



Rubbing



Use vegetable as a stamp



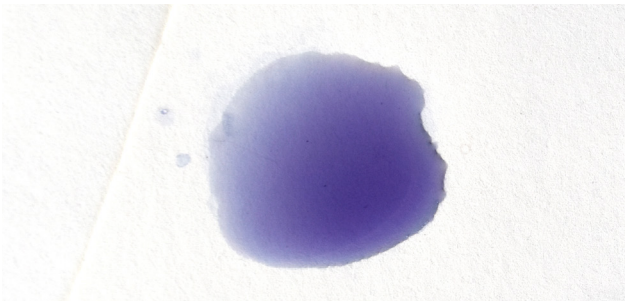
## Changing colours

**YOU WILL NEED:**

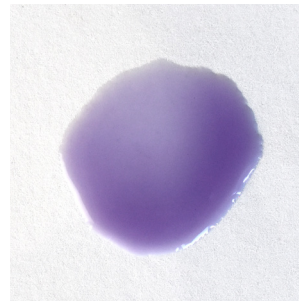
- Vinegar
- Lemon juice
- Bicarbonate of Soda
- Corn flour

**Change the colour of your ink by adding different mixtures**

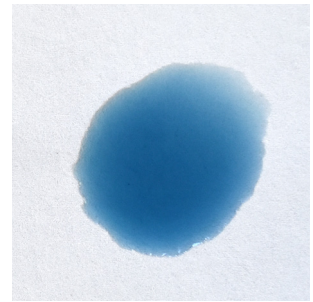
**Experiment:** Add in acids such as vinegar or lemon juice or try using alkaline like Bicarbonate of Soda



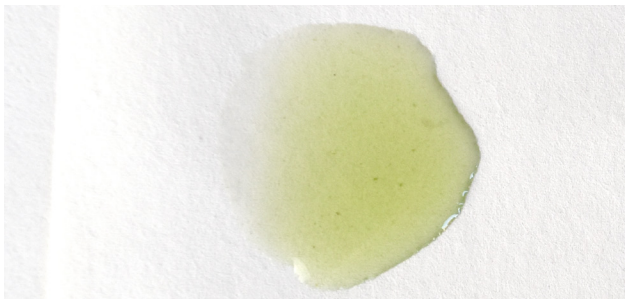
Cabbage purple



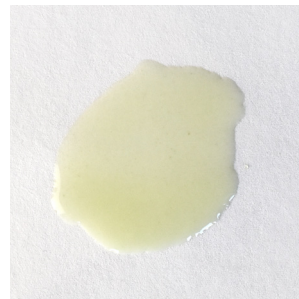
corn flour



with Bicarbonate of Soda



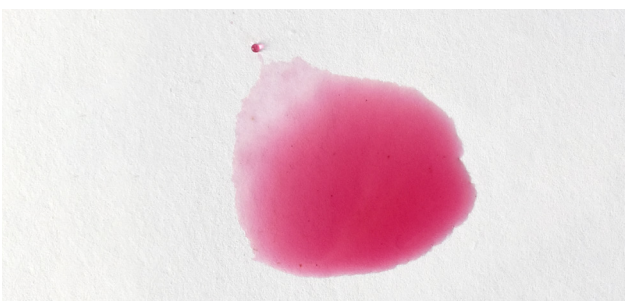
Fresh grass green



corn flour



lemon juice



Beetroot pink



corn flour

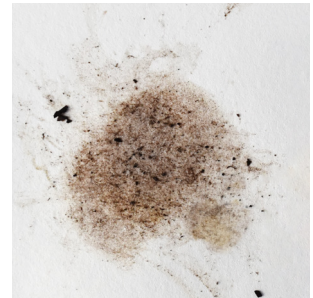
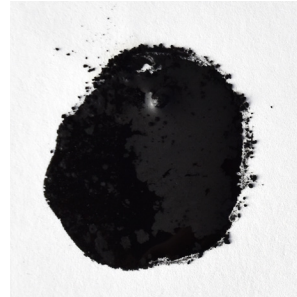


with Bicarbonate of Soda

**Tip:** 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)

# Tinker

Have a look for other natural materials such as chalk or charcoal. These can be ground down into dust using a hard stone and a hard surface or used as pencils to make marks



Peek 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 to create a mixture



You could also experiment by dyeing with your inks, like reviving an old T-shirt!



Discover more ideas here

