



OCTOBER 2021

Primary School
Climate Change Conference

Art Session
Teacher Notes

Art Session (Approx 1hr 45mins)

Materials: Marbling inks, trays, water, large sheets of grey board, mountboard or cardboard cut into a circle, A4 white cartridge paper, PVA glue, paint brushes, scissors, hole-punch, strong string or fishing wire and materials to decorate your hand-shaped cut outs (pencils, oil pastels, paints magazines/leaves, etc).



Introduction – *Play the Climate Change Art video* to learn about Luke Jerram’s Gaia sculpture, why he created it and hear people’s reaction to this awe-inspiring piece of art.

~ 3 minutes



Activity 1 – *The Power of Art* – Discuss with the class what they thought of people’s reactions to the Gaia art piece. What type of words did they use to describe the art? Do they think the people in the video will remember the art work? Conclude the discussion by explaining that art like Gaia can be an effective tool to bring big issues to society and to get people thinking and hopefully caring about the topic. ~ 5 minutes

Main Activity – *Planet and Pledges* - During this art session the class will create a group piece of work that represents the Earth and include their pledges to help the planet. *Follow Chris Hann’s step by step video guide to the activity.* The video includes pauses to conduct the activity but due to drying times for the marbling you might want to go from step 1 to step 3 and then return to step 2 when the marbled sheets are dry. ~ 90 minutes

A few things to consider before starting the activity:

We recommend using the largest cardboard sheet possible for your Earth, 50cm in diameter is great! However, you can produce several smaller ones if preferred. You can either do both sides of one circle of card (leaving it to dry in between sides) or you can get two circles of card so that half the class work on one and half on the other before sticking them together at the end to create a double-sided piece. We also advise that you pre-cut your card as the thickness can make it hard to cut with scissors and may require the use of a Stanley knife. To strengthen and seal your card you can apply a layer of watered down (50/50) PVA glue and allow it to dry before using.

Step 1 - Marbling

For this part of the activity it is best to set up marbling stations and have drying racks or space ready.

As the marbling paper will be used to cover their Earth, get the children to think about what combinations of colours to use.



The marbling will need to dry before carrying on with step 2 so you can show the video of step 2 so the class know the plan but then move on to step 3 while you wait for the marbled paper to dry (this can be sped up with a hairdryer if needed!).

Top tip – prime the tank for marbling by doing one yourself before the kids start, this improves the surface tension for subsequent goes.

Step 2 - Tearing and Gluing

Have the children work in groups if making more than one Earth.



Don't forget that both sides of the Earth need to be covered with the marbled paper. You could have two pieces of card and glue them back-to-back after applying the marbled paper, to create your Earth. This would allow the class to work in 2 groups and cut down on drying time.

Step 3 - Decorated Hands

As suggested in the video, you can decorate your hands in any way you like, by collage, drawings or even using natural materials like leaves.

We suggest that you decide on a few options for the way children could decorate their hands before starting the video so that you can have the resources and materials ready to go.



Once you have attached your hands you can add your pledges to the planet – think big dream catcher! Why not try using string instead of fishing wire to hang the pledges, for an eco-friendlier option.

Your final piece should look something like this!



We encourage you to use your work to make a display at school but if you would like it to be included in the display with Gaia at St Peter Mancroft Church in Norwich please deliver the work to the church by no later than 3.30pm on Saturday 23rd October.