

# Opening Out: Shells and Sketchbooks

By [Tobi Meuwissen](#)

*In this activity, learners experiment with a range of drawing tools and materials to create both observational and experimental mixed-media drawings.*

*In the session, they begin by making a concertina sketchbook using tracing paper, before experimenting with ink and a range of drawing materials, moving onto close observational drawing of shells, to fill their concertinas with drawings in inventive and creative ways.*

*The three drawing exercises, along with the warm-up activity, are carefully scaffolded to help children develop their skills step-by-step. Each activity builds on prior learning, reinforcing understanding of both the subject matter and the materials, while encouraging children to make connections and informed choices about their next steps.*

*This activity was facilitated with Year 4 learners at [Beaver Road Junior School](#) over a 1.5-hour session, but it can easily be extended or adapted, with opportunities to use the exercises as warm-ups across different sessions. It also comes with plenty of scope to adapt the exercises to the*

*needs or aims of your learners.*

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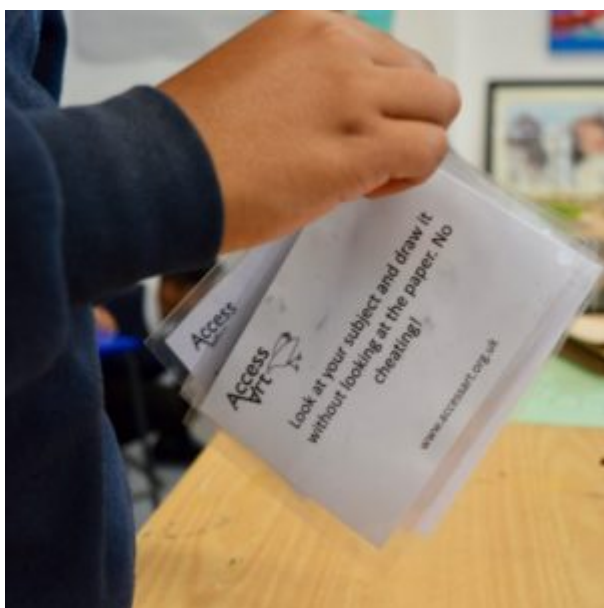
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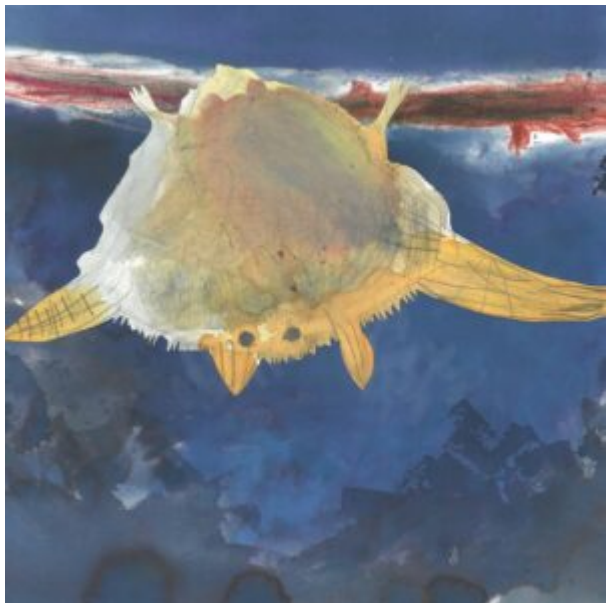
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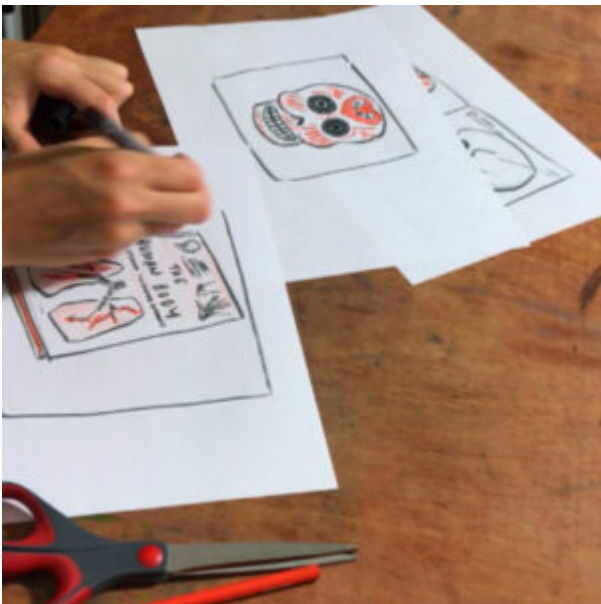
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