

# Drawing Like a Caveman – Handprint Art

This session explores how we can remind ourselves of the beginnings of drawing, and inspire simple mark making, through the medium of charcoal and handprint art. The session is ideally suited to young children aged 4 and upwards, though we have used this workshop as a warm-up with adults too who have loved it!



## Notes for Teachers

- **What is the aim of this exercise?**

The aim of this exercise is to encourage children to

begin their understanding of what the act of drawing can be: at its simplest a connection between hand and body, drawing material and drawing surface.

It also provides an opportunity for children to directly experience the physicality of drawing, the messiness of drawing, and the fun of drawing.

The exercise is inclusive and empowering.

• **What age can this exercise be used with?**

The exercise can be used with ages 4 through to adult.

• **How long does the activity take?**

The activity takes between 20 and 30 minutes.

• **How do I measure success?**

There are lots of ways you might measure success in this project:

- How involved are the children? How much ownership of the exercise did they experience? How proud of the finished result?
- How far did they push their mark making? Did they manage to make dark darks and light lights?
- Did the children consider the composition (placement of marks on paper)?
- After the exercise, were the children able to talk about their experience, and reflect upon the marks they made and the outcomes? Were they able to draw parallels with other experiences?

• **What can we try after this exercise?**

See the suggested activities at the end of this resource.

## • Which artists might we look at?

Cave art found in European caves dating back between 40,000 and 14,000 years ago.

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/stone-age/cave-painting/>

Handprints in Rock art from around the world: <http://www.bradshawfoundation.com/hands/index.php>

Judith Ann Braun uses finger prints and charcoal to make large scale artwork: <http://judithannbraun.com>

The resource shares how to set up and run the session, and how to enable the pupils to push their exploration of charcoal.

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