Collection of Resources: Drawing & Making Inspired by “Where the Wild Things Are” by Maurice Sendak

By Paula Briggs & Rowan Briggs Smith

This page presents a series of resources which share drawing and making sessions inspired by Maurice Sendak's "Where the Wild Things Are"

Many thanks to Rowan for her help in planning and delivering the workshops.

- Who are the sessions aimed at?
  The original sessions were run with children aged 7 and 8.
The resources below can be used with children aged 7 to 11 (older KS 1 children and KS 2 children).

- **Which areas of exploration are covered?**

  The following areas are explored:

  - Mark making (quills and ink and pen and pencil)
  - Preliminary sketches through to finished drawing
  - Making a shared drawing
  - Colour mixing (soft pastels)
  - Making sculpture (plastic bags, wire, modroc)
  - Collage
  - Themes include narrative, landscape and character
  - Appreciation of work or author / illustrator Maurice Sendak

- **How much time is needed?**

  Each of the 8 sessions below took 1 hour with a small group of children. If you are working with a larger group of children the activities may take longer.

  If you follow all 8 sessions you will cover all the areas of exploration listed above. However if time is short, you can easily complete a smaller body of work in two or three sessions, depending upon your chosen area of exploration.

- **Where might the sessions be used?**

  The sessions might be used in the following contexts:

  - Classrooms (as part of art lessons or literature-inspired exploration)
  - After school art club
  - With MAT pupils
  - Community groups (i.e. Scouts and Guides)
  - Gallery, Museum or Art Organisation workshops
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1. **Drawing Soft Toys**

![Image of a child drawing a soft toy]

Explore the mark making of illustrator Maurice Sendak, and make "Wild Thing" drawings inspired by soft toys

2. **A Shared Ink Drawing**
Make a shared drawing of an imaginary landscape, inspired by Maurice Sendak's landscapes

3. Adding Colour to the Shared Ink Drawing

Explore using soft pastel to create mood and atmosphere on the imaginary landscape
4. Life Drawing

Combine observational drawing skills with imagination

5. Drawing our own "wild things" to inhabit our imaginary landscape

Invent your own "Wild Things" to add to the imaginary landscape drawing
6. Sculptural Wild Things, Week 1

Make an armature of a "Wild Thing" sculpture

7. Sculptural Wild Things, Week 2 & 3
Cover your armature with modroc and collage to give your "Wild Thing" sculpture character!

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