

Pathway: Making Birds

Pathway for Years 1 & 2

Disciplines:

Sculpture, Drawing, Collage

Key Concepts:

- That there is a relationship between drawing & making – we can transform 2d to 3d.
- That we can use observational drawing and experimental mark-making together to make art.
- That we can work from similar stimulus or starting point but end up with very different individual results.
- That the individual results can then be brought together to make a whole artwork.

In this pathway children continue to develop their understanding of sculpture and build their making skills.

The exploration starts with careful looking and drawing, and from this “grounded” basis children are encouraged to take creative risks by using experimental mark-making with a variety of media.

Children are then invited to explore how they can

manipulate their drawings in an intuitive way to make 3d forms. Paper is twisted, folded, crumpled to become 3d and added to a simple structure. Children explore balance to finally created an individual bird.

The class birds can then be brought together to make a “flock” – with each child’s artwork valued as part of the whole.

Themes:

Birds, Wildlife, Local habitat

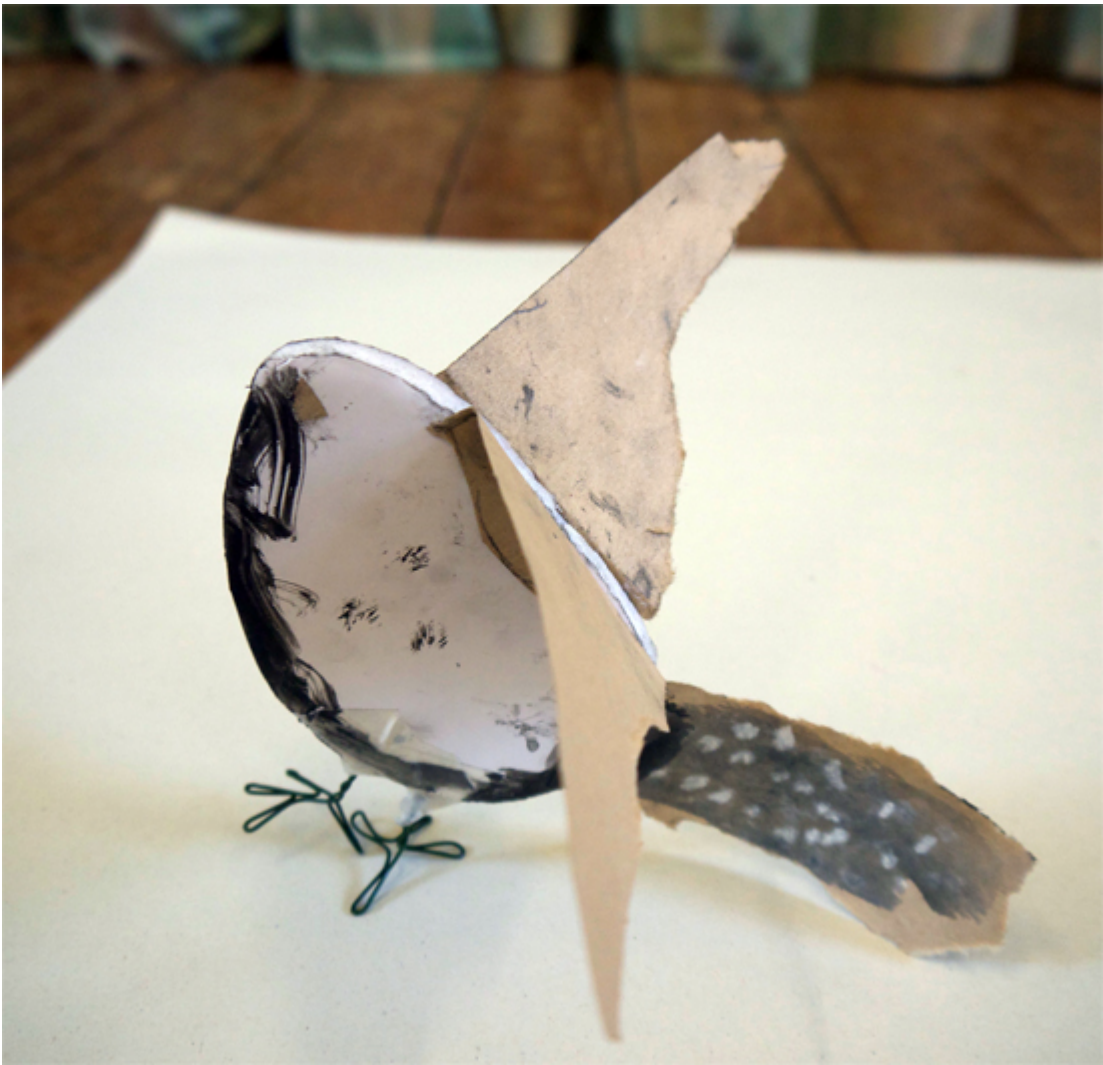
Medium:

Paper (sugar and cartridge), Soft pencils, wax crayons, watercolours, pastels, graphite, scissors, glue sticks, cardboard or foamboard, paper clips or wire.

Artists:

A variety (see resource)

If you use this resource in your setting, please tag us on social media: #InspiredBy @accessart (facebook, twitter) @accessart.org.uk (instagram) and share the url. Thank you!





AGES 5-8

Teaching Notes

Find the MTP for this pathway [here](#).

[Please find the CPD session recording of the Making Birds pathway here.](#)

[Find an In The Studio session recording exploring observational and experimental drawing of feathers here.](#)

[Curriculum Links](#)

Geography: Use language which supports

understanding about continents (migration), maps, habitats.

Maths: Explore the relationship between 2D/3D shapes, weight, measuring.

Science: Explore birds, habitats, seasons, food chain

PSHE: Supports Peer Discussion, Collaboration, Responsibility to the planet.

I Can...

- I can look carefully at photos and films of birds, take in the details and overall shapes, and then made drawings of what I have noticed.
- I can drawn from life looking closely.
- I can experiment with a variety of drawing materials and test ways to make marks that describe what I see.
- I can use colour in my drawings and mix two or more different media together.
- I have looked at the work of other artists who have been inspired by birds and I can share my response to their work.
- I can fold, tear, crumple and collage paper

to transform it from 2d to 3d.

- I can use a variety of materials to make my own sculpture, and I have taken on the challenge of making my sculpture balance and stand.
 - I have seen how my sculpture can be part of a class artwork. I can see how all our sculptures are individual.
 - I can share my work with my classmates and teachers, and consider what was successful for me.
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Time

This pathway takes 6 weeks, with an hour per week. Shorten or lengthen the suggested pathway according to time and experience. Follow the stages in green for a shorter pathway or less complex journey.

Materials

Sketchbooks, soft pencils, coloured pencils, handwriting pens, oil/chalk pastels, feathers, A2 cartridge, sugar paper, newsprint.

Project 1: Rubbings- Small objects, wax crayons.

Project 2: Drawing Fur (adapt to feathers) – Feathers, pastels, soft pencils.

Corrugated card or foamboard, wire or paper clips, glue sticks.

Pathway: Making Birds

A PDF of this pathway can be found [here](#).

.Aims of the Pathway

This pathway aims to help children begin to understand the relationship between drawing and making, 2d and 3d. Pupils explore how to transform materials into sculpture, moving from mark making to balance and structure.

▪ Week 1: Drawing as Research

Drawing from Photographic
Sources



Visit the free to access “[Drawing Source Material: Birds](#)” resource to find films of birds shown in close-up.

Pause the films at various points so that children can work in their sketchbooks to make drawings of birds.

Encourage close and slow looking by talking as they draw – use your voice to attract their attention to features of the bird.

Create momentum with the drawing by inviting pupils to make drawings of various timed lengths, before moving on to the next paused image/drawing.

Experiment with a variety of media: soft B pencils, handwriting pens, pastels.

▪ Week	2:	Developing	Skills
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Drawing from Observation & Experimental Mark-Making



Explore the “[Feathers: Perfect for Mark-Making](#)” resource.

This time working from real feathers rather than photographic imagery, encourage the children to take creative risks and explore how they can draw feathers using a variety of mediums.

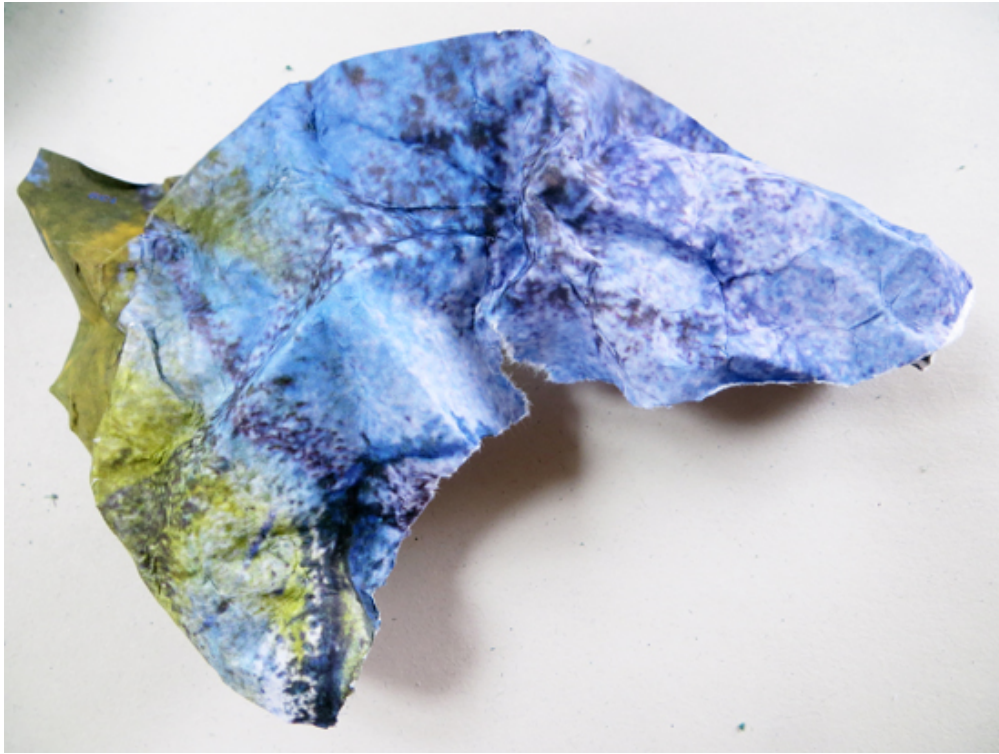
Work in sketchbooks or on larger pieces of paper (A3) and experiment with how the paper size changes the nature of the mark-making

(for example use sugar paper and cartridge paper).

You might like to show pupils [this work by artist Andrea Butler](#), in which Andrea shares how she uses the textures and colours within birds to inspire her artwork.

▪ Week 3: Working Slowly Towards 3d

Manipulating Paper from 2D to 3D



Still working on paper, but this time on sheets of newsprint, sugar and cartridge paper, pupils will explore what happens when you fold, tear, crumple paper and start to manipulate it towards 3d forms.

Explore these three resources and decide which elements you would like to explore with your children:

- [Making Rubbings](#)
- [Turning Paper Into Fur](#) (adapt to feathers)
- [Manipulating Paper 2d into 3d](#)

Make sure you encourage playful exploration and celebrate invention. Pupils are not working towards a fixed outcome, instead they

are developing making and creativity skills.

▪ Week 4, 5: Watch & Make

Explore Sculpture

Pupils are now going to start making their sculptures.



Watch the “[What Is Sculpture](#)” animation if you didn’t watch it with the class earlier in the year.



Take a look at the free to access “[Talking Points: Inspired by Birds](#)” resource if you’d like to talk about how other artists have been inspired by birds. Work in sketchbooks guided by the “[Show Me What You See](#)”

resource.



Use the “[Making Birds](#)” resource to enable children to pull all their learning together and make small sculptures.

▪ Week

6:

Celebrate

Reflect & Share

Finally make time to display the birds as a “flock”. Here is an opportunity to talk about many pieces made by separate people can be exhibited as a single artwork.

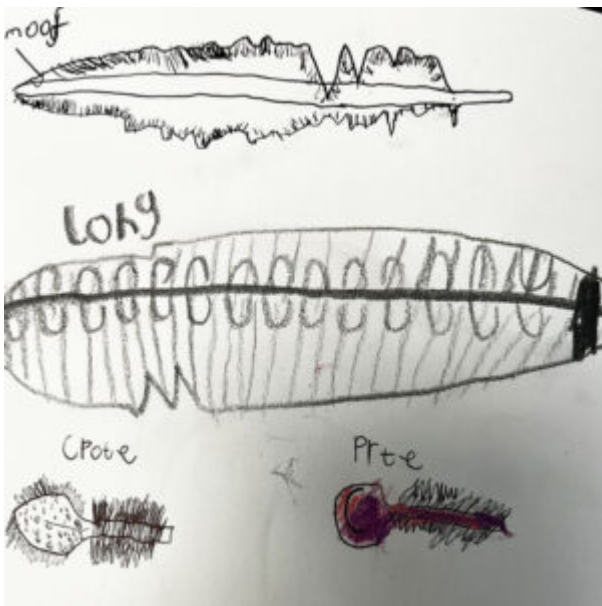
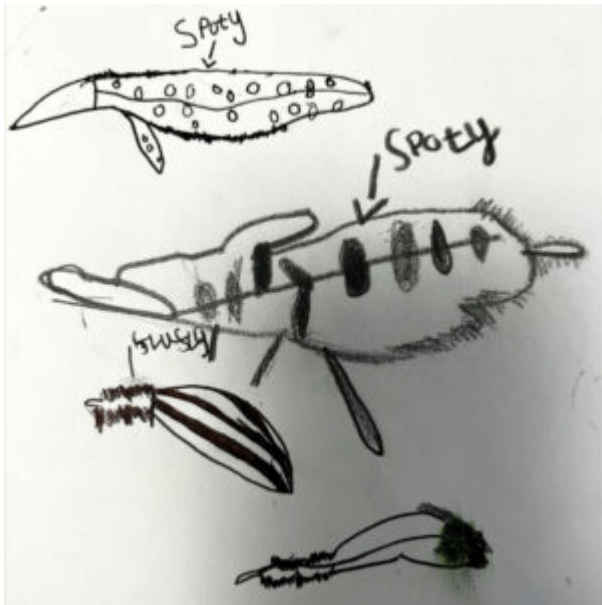
Use the “[Crit](#)” resource to help you explore how to talk about the work.

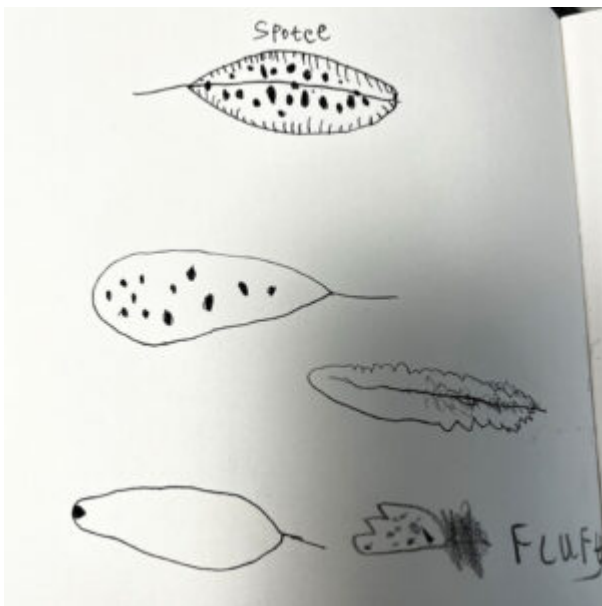


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Transform materials into birds



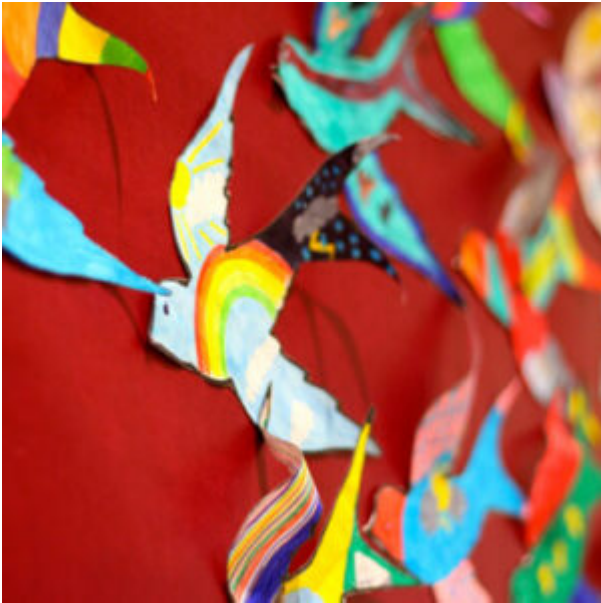
Challenge students to create sculptural birds

swoop



Explore birds and migration

flock



Create a school installation featuring a personalised bird from each child