



#infinityforest

Welcome to our Explore Essex

Infinity Forest art pack 1

Inspired by the wonder of trees, this pack, designed for all ages and abilities, has been created by artists INSTAR. Explore Essex and INSTAR invite you to take time out to wander beneath the branches, look a little closer at the leaves and revel in the beauty and magnificence of these important flora, which also play such a crucial part in the fight against climate change.

Help us create a virtual #infinityforest

The Essex Forest Initiative will be planting 350,000 trees over five years to help combat carbon emissions. To celebrate this ambitious project, INSTAR have created the 'Infinity Forest' artwork at Danbury Country park, and ask you to share your tree inspired art online.

Simply post your artwork on social media using **#infinityforest @exploressex** or email us your pictures **Marketing.ExploreEssex@essex.gov.uk**. We would love to see what you create.

Share your creations to enter our competition to win a hamper of goodies worth over £100!

Find out more **www.explore-essex.com/culture/infinity-forest**

The art does not end here!

The Infinity Forest is a three-metre-tall, upright 'kaleidoscope' surrounding a Scots Pine tree sapling. Visit the artwork at Danbury Country Park.

Use the viewing holes to get a good look, take and share photos of your experience.

www.explore-essex.com/culture/infinity-forest

#infinityforest @exploressex @greenessex

For more information about our artists INSTAR

www.we-are-instar.co.uk @weareinstar



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Tree tracing

What's better than a sunny day and a magnificent tree to inspire our art...

Equipment:

A **sunny day**

A **tree**

Paper and **pencil / Charcoal**
or a camera to take a picture



This is a simple way to help you understand the form of a tree and draw it without feeling it's too difficult.

Simply place a piece (or roll) of paper where a tree casts its shadow (this can also be achieved using a branch in a vase). Arrange your paper to create an interesting pattern and just trace it.

This may be a very abstract artwork as the shadow moves with the position of the sun, or when it is windy. But enjoy this challenge.

You can draw using a pencil, or why not try using a twig (and ink) or charcoal?

No art materials but loads of sunshine and great shadows?

That's OK, simply capture your tree shadow by taking a photo of it, think about how you position your camera and if you would like to have your own shadow, or others you are with, in the picture too.

On a walk?

Take multiple shadow pictures, day or night (with the assistance of a street lamp or moon light) and create a collection of photos. Have a go at cropping your images, adding filters and tones to see what effects you can create.

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Branching into collage

It's all about textures, colours and bold shapes



Equipment:

Different types of **paper**, newspaper or magazines

Glue

View or photo of a **tree**

Observe your tree, draw a bold and simple rough sketch onto a piece of paper. Consider big shapes and don't worry about detail. You could add a bird or an animal or insect perhaps?

Using your collected papers, cut out shapes to replicate different parts of your tree, overlay them and adjust them. Think about texture and pattern, your art can be multi-coloured, be black and white and be very unusual and expressive.

When you are happy with your composition, glue your pieces into place.

For inspiration take a look at well-known children's book illustrator, Eric Carle, who wrote and illustrated **The Hungry Caterpillar**, used collage and created his own textured papers to create his work.



Need ideas to create your own patterned paper?

Squiggle lots of circles on a page using different coloured pens

Paint scrunched paper with poster paint and dab it lots of times to create bark-like texture

With a wide paint brush and water colours, swish colour around the paper

Using a twig, paint brush or feather create lots of zigzag and criss-cross lines

Use an old toothbrush or nail-brush to flick paint onto the page

Paint onto leaves to print

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Capturing canopies

Have you ever wondered about what is happening at the tops of trees?



On your next walk to a woodland take a small mirror with you.

Observe the canopy (tops) of the trees by holding it in front of you horizontally (flat), with the mirror facing the sky.

Carefully walk and enjoy this new view and perspective of a woodland through the reflective mirror.

Take a moment to stop and observe the trees from this angle, find a great view and take time to enjoy it and notice trees in a new way.

It's a great way to watch Red squirrels too, if you are visiting Cudmore Grove Country Park.

There are plenty of fun creative photos you can take in the woodland by using mirrors to reflect the habitat and create optical illusions.

Equipment:

A **tree** or **woodland**

A **mirror**



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Tree-lines

Stencils are the perfect tool to create your own Infinity Forest!
Print, print, print, print!

Equipment:

Card or **plastic carton lid**

A **pencil**

A **scissors** or craft knife

Paper or fabric to stencil

Sponge or stiff brush

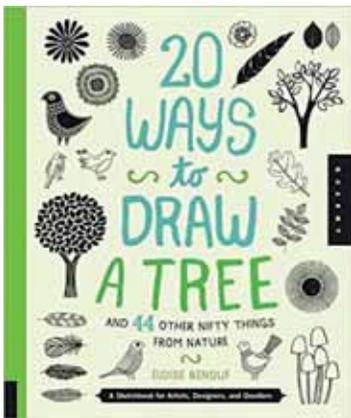
Paint

Draw the outline of a tree onto thin card or a plastic carton lid. Carefully cut out the centre of your tree to create a stencil. Using a sponge or a dry brush and paint, create a stencil pattern of your tree by placing in onto paper or fabric and lightly dab the area of the tree, be careful not to use too much paint.

Try creating this on fabric, onto pages in unwanted books and onto wrapping paper and repeat as many times as you like to create your own Infinity Forest!

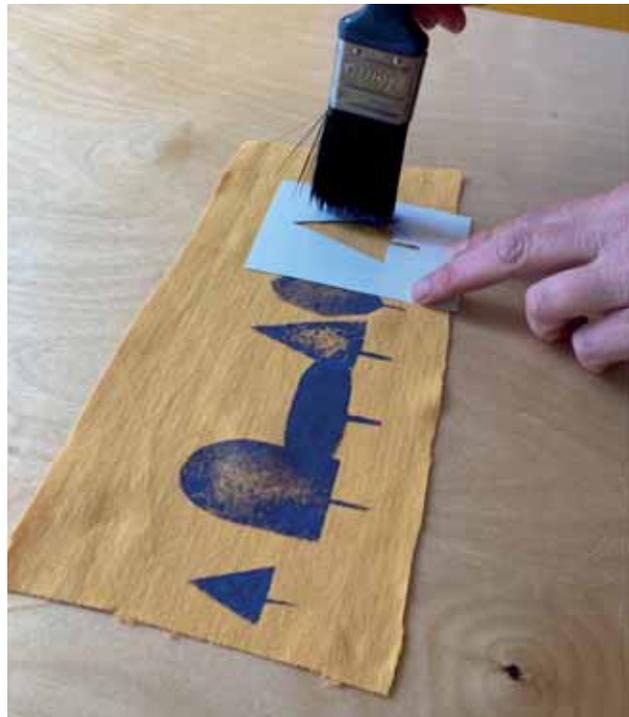
Need some ideas for tree shapes?

This great book illustrated by UK artist Eloise Renouf offers plenty of inspiration!



Why not try fabric paints?

By using fabric paints, your art can be machine washed and is more hard wearing. A great way to make your work into soft furnishings like cushions or even to embellish a t-shirt.



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Love Essex Activity

Make a biodegradable seedling planter



Instructions:

- 1) Cut four even slits around the bottom of one end of the tube. (Make the slits long enough to reach the centre of the tube)
- 2) Fold the four sections into the centre to create a closed bottom
- 3) Overlap the sections to secure in place
- 4) Fill the tube with soil and sow your seedlings
- 5) Plant the tube into a bigger container or directly into the ground
- 6) The cardboard tube will biodegrade

What you'll need:

Cardboard toilet roll tube

Scissors

Soil

Seedlings



www.lovesessex.org

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