

Activity ideas – Green Man

Background info	Activity	What you will need	Curriculum
<p>Green Men faces all look different, but they are united by being fashioned out of nature – eg with leaves for hair and vines growing from the nostrils or mouth.</p>	<p>Go on a walk in a park or the countryside, and make a Green Man artwork out of natural materials. Find leaves, pine cones, stones, feathers, pieces of wood etc. and arrange them 'in situ' to make a green man face. Take a photo of it for your records and then leave the face for someone else to find!</p> <p>For inspiration you could look at the amazing effects created by famous artists who make nature artworks, such as Andy Goldsworthy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural materials you can find in the countryside or in a park. It is best not to pick living leaves or flowers, as this harms plants. • Camera to take photos. • Computer and search engine for researching nature artists. <p>We'd love to see your green man artwork! Why not share it with us by sending it to learning@rosslynchapel.com</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art and design
<p>The carving was made by starting with a block of stone, and then gradually chipping pieces of the stone away to make the green man image. This would have been done carefully using stone carving tools such as a mallet and chisels. It was a difficult, costly and time-consuming process.</p>	<p>Try out carving a design yourself, using a bar of soap. It makes a mess, but you can get a good result!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bars of soap. • Soap carving tools or similar utensils you can find (but be very careful with anything sharp!). • A table cloth or newspaper to protect surfaces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art and design
<p>With their grotesque faces and powerful natural symbolism, Green Men have captured artists and writers' imaginations. Although they are associated with the abundance and regeneration of nature, they can sometimes appear mischievous or even sinister as well as benevolent. This means they have a lot of potential for creative writing or art.</p>	<p>Take inspiration from one of the Green Men images from Rosslyn Chapel and write a story or poem featuring a Green Man character. There are no rules to follow – write what comes into your head!</p> <hr/> <p>For further exploration: why not source and read the classic poem <i>Green Man in the Garden</i> by the Cornish poet Charles Causley. It is a simple poem to read but it has a powerful atmosphere and an ambiguous ending. Enjoy!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer access or pencil/paper. • You can find Charles Causley's poem on several websites. <p>We'd love to read your poem! Why not share it with us by sending it to learning@rosslynchapel.com</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative writing