



Botanical Art



About this Learning Resource

This resource introduces Mary Delany, a gardener and artist working in the 1700s who recorded plants by making botanically accurate paper collages which she called 'paper mosaiks'. Students are encouraged to think about the ways in which plants are recorded and depicted in artworks.

Please find more information on Delany and examples of her artwork here:

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/about-us/british-museum-story/people-behind-collection/mary-delany>

The Florilegium Society at Chelsea Physic Garden records plants with detailed paintings. Find out more about the Florilegium society here:

<https://www.chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk/plant-science/florilegium-society/>

This is a good resource for students to think about plant records and how information is shared and spread around the world in different forms, along with the importance of observation and data collection.

How to use this resource:

- You will need: coloured paper, glue, pencils, and scissors (optional).
- Students will invent their own plant and then create it out of paper using collage in the style of Mary Delany's 'paper mosaiks'.
- Mary Delany's artwork can be used as a starting point for discussion around ways of recording and sharing information about plants.
- After creating their own collages, students work individually or in groups to label the parts of the plant they have depicted.
- Students may share their artwork with the class, describing the process and their experience.

National Curriculum Links:

KS1 Science

- Observing closely, using simple equipment.
- Gathering and recording data to help in answering questions.

KS1 Art and Design

- Using drawing, painting, and sculpture to develop and share ideas, experiences, and imagination.
- Developing a wide range of art and design techniques using colour, pattern, texture, line, shape, form, and space.

KS2 Science

- Working scientifically.

Chelsea Physic Garden Visit

This resource supports all visits to Chelsea Physic Garden and can be used in the classroom at any time.

Learning Objectives:

- Students will know the importance of data collection and careful observation.
- Students will foster their curiosity and work on their observational skills.
- Students will learn about an artist and her creative techniques.





Botanical Art: Paper Mosaik Activity



Use your imagination to invent your own plant. Then, use your hands to rip up coloured paper into different shapes and glue them below to build your plant as a collage, in the style of Mary Delany.

Make sure to include all the main parts of a plant: stem, leaf, flower.

Once you finish making your 'paper mosaik' in the box below, label your plant.

And then share your creation with the rest of the class.

Name: _____

Climate where it grows: _____

Animals that eat this plant: _____

How can we use art to learn about the plants around us? What do artists have in common with scientific researchers?