

# Unearthing Creativity

## Gateways to creative activity - Worksheet

### Ink printing

*Based on the Japanese technique of ink printing called 'suminagashi' - meaning 'floating ink'.*

#### Materials

- Paper (printer / photocopier paper works well)
- Indian ink
- Two brushes
- A tray or plate
- A jar of water
- Washing-up liquid



#### Process

1. Start by filling a tray or plate with clean water. Leave it to settle.
2. Add a little washing-up liquid to your jar of water, and stir.
3. Add some ink to one brush, then lightly touch the surface of the water with the ink. Don't push the brush into the water. The ink should just disperse on the surface.
4. Dip your other brush into the water with washing-up liquid, then touch the surface of the water with this brush, within the faint circle created by the ink. Again, don't push your brush under the water.
5. Repeat the first two stages, alternating ink and washing-up water, creating concentric circles.
6. It can be helpful to use both hands (e.g. right hand ink, left hand water with washing-up liquid).
7. When you have a good design, carefully lay a piece of paper on the surface of the water, creating a print of the image.
8. Remove the paper from the water, and dab off any excess water.



## Things to consider

- This is a simple process, but it can be a little tricky to get good results.
- You may need to experiment with the amounts of ink and washing-up liquid in the water.
- Different types of paper will yield different results.
- Try breathing calmly and get into a rhythm as you alternate the brush strokes.

Unearthing Creativity is a collaborative project which is being delivered by artists Marion Cheung, Naz Syed, Creative Lives and Age Cymru.

For further information, please see  
[www.creative-lives.org/unearthing-creativity](http://www.creative-lives.org/unearthing-creativity)

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