

# Unearthing Creativity

## Gateways to creative activity - Worksheet

### Inky splats

*"...stop sometimes and look into the stains on walls...or clouds, or like places, if you consider them well, you may find really marvellous ideas."*

– Leonardo da Vinci

**Purpose** Get your imagination going! Invent a scene from looking at indistinct marks and random patterns that you make by applying paint or ink to paper.

**Materials**

- Paper - you can use old envelopes or photocopy paper
- A pen - biro, dip pen, roller-ball pen
- Ink - any kind will do! With 'Quink' (brand) you can get browns and blues from the black ink. If not, then any watercolour paint in your favourite colour.
- Clean water in a jar
- An small, soft paint brush

#### Process

1. Apply a few dabs of plain water to the page. Try different sizes - they could be thumbprints or smears the size of your palm, depending on the size of paper.
2. Apply the tiniest drop of ink with the tip of the paint brush, into the water on the page. See what marks emerge. Indian ink gives wonderful speckles! Repeat the process, little by little. Leave to dry.
3. Look at the marks and see if they remind you of anything. Do the marks suggest part of something else, unfinished? Is there a face? Or a strange monster in the landscape!
4. Add to the splats with your pen. Or just leave it as it is!



## Things to consider...

- If at first, you can't see any other images, turn the page upside down and look again... then repeat the process.
- Try different types of ink. Water-soluble ink will give a completely different effect from Indian ink (which can contain varnish or shellac, making it waterproof - therefore reacting in interesting ways with the water).
- We'd love to see what you make. Please share your creations with us!
- Tag us on Instagram: #UnearthingCreativity #Unearthing #inkysplats
- Join our private Facebook group 'Unearthing Creativity'  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3995839470641387>

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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[www.creative-lives.org](http://www.creative-lives.org)

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