

How to...



Make a woodland guardian

What you need

- Leaves
- Googly eyes or paper and pen
- Glue and card

Olaf Falafel is a children's author, illustrator, dad of two daughters and a comedian. During the first lockdown he created an online art club (tinyurl.com/TWJ-olafart). Sometimes he tells jokes that combine both art and comedy, for example "What do you call an artist with a cold? Vincent van Cough!" Over to you, Olaf...

"As this month sees the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) taking place, I thought I'd tell you about an artist who is an environmentalist and uses the natural world to make his masterpieces.

His name is Andy Goldsworthy and he is a British artist who mostly makes sculptures from things that he finds outdoors. Things like leaves, twigs, flowers, rocks, snow, ice, pine cones and mud. He also takes photographs of his sculptures because some of them don't last very long before they melt or get blown away.

I especially like the leaf art that he makes. He collects different coloured leaves and uses them almost like a palette of paints. Goldsworthy will quite often create shading by placing certain leaves next to each other, going from red to orange and then to yellow to make an effect called an ombré.

So, as there are lots of fallen leaves about, I thought it would be fun to use his leaf-art techniques to make our own woodland guardian character."



Olaf Falafel's leaf art.



1 Go to a park or a garden and start collecting fallen leaves.



2 Make sure you collect a variety of different colours and sizes, and that the leaves are dry.



3 If you haven't got googly eyes, you can make your own with paper and a black marker pen.



4 Glue a big leaf onto the card for the head and stick on eyes and little leaves for the face.



5 Blend different coloured leaves in an ombré (colour that is shaded) effect to make the body.



6 Finish your woodland guardian by sticking down smaller leaves for arms, legs and a tail.

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