

Art and Nature

Humans have created artwork inspired by nature for thousands of years. From the ancient cave paintings created in the stone age, to more modern pieces of art, the natural world has inspired paintings, music and the written word throughout human existence. Let's explore how nature could inspire you to create your own **masterpiece**:

Nature Inspiring Music

Italian **composer** Antonio Vivaldi created a piece of classical music called 'The Four Seasons'. It is split up into different sections and each section tries to sound like the season it is named after.

- 'Spring' tries to sound like bird calls.
- 'Summer' tries to sound like swarms of wasps.
- 'Autumn' tries to sound like the hunters' horns.
- 'Winter' tries to sound like the chattering of teeth.

Why not listen to it for yourself? Can you hear what Vivaldi was inspired by?

Take a walk in your local park or sit in your garden at different times of the day. Close your eyes and listen to the different sounds that could inspire your own music. Think about the instruments you could use to make those sounds.

Can you use your body to make the sounds of morning birdsong?



The great wave off Kanagawa by Katsushika Hokusai is licensed under CC BY 2.0.

Nature Inspiring Sculpting

Andy Goldsworthy is an award-winning environmental artist. To create his sculptures, he uses:

- fallen leaves;
- pebbles;
- branches;
- stone.

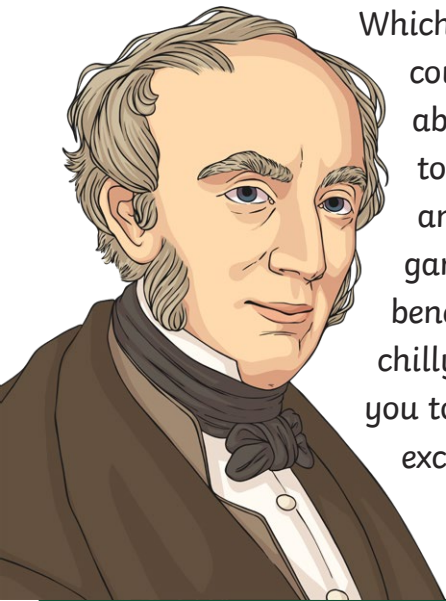
Which natural materials could you use to create your own sculpture? You could:

- collect and arrange different coloured leaves to create a pattern;
- weave twigs and branches together to make a structure;
- stack pebbles and rocks in an interesting way.

Nature Inspiring Poetry

William Wordsworth was a British poet. Many of Wordsworth's famous poems were inspired by nature. His poems talk about:

- flowers blooming;
- different kinds of plants;
- birds hopping and playing;
- the chirps and calls of different birds.



Which plants or animals could you write poetry about? You may wish to describe the sights and sounds of your garden or the crunching beneath your feet on a chilly day could inspire you to write a poem full of exciting adjectives.

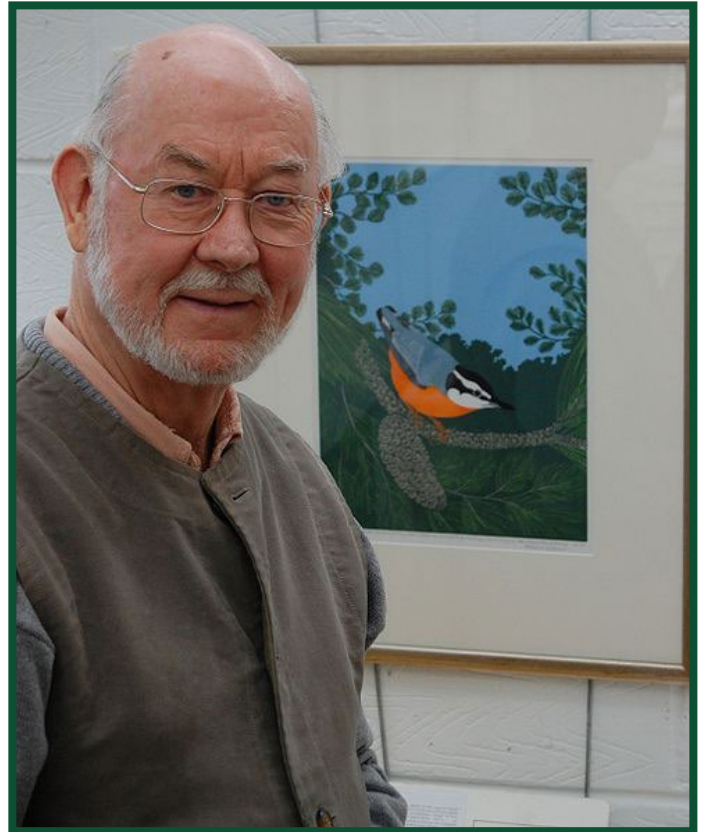
An Extract From

I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud

By William Wordsworth

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.



Robert Gillmor Photograph by Pigsonthewing is licensed under CC BY 2.0

Nature Inspiring Artwork

Robert Gillmor is an artist and **illustrator**. As a child, Robert spent many hours watching his grandfather creating prints in his workshop. Just like his grandfather, Robert began creating artwork inspired by birds.

Which animal would you love to become an expert on? Why not research your chosen creature online or visit a local nature reserve? Spend time watching them; how do they move? What colours, patterns and textures can you see? Think about how you could recreate these using different materials and skills.





"Goldfinch in Flight" by Clive Brown

Be Inspired!

Inspiration for your own art is all around you.

- Birds in the bright sky could inspire a piece of art using charcoal on a blue fabric.
- Feathers, leaves and twigs you find during a springtime walk could be used to make a natural collage.
- Take a camera to your local park. Can you take a picture of a colourful bird in flight or an interesting minibeast?

The possibilities are endless. Why not explore your local environment and use the colours, sounds and textures of nature to create some artwork of your own?

Glossary

composer A person who writes music.

illustrator A person who draws pictures for books or magazines.

masterpiece An outstanding piece of artwork

Questions

1. What is the name of the Italian composer who created 'The Four Seasons'? Tick one.

- ☐ Andy Goldsworthy
- ☐ William Wordsworth
- ☐ Antonio Vivaldi
- ☐ Robert Gillmor

2. Number the artists to show the order they appear in the text. The first one has been done for you.

- ☐ William Wordsworth
- ☐ Robert Gillmor
- ☒ 1 Antonio Vivaldi
- ☐ Andy Goldsworthy

3. List **two** materials that Andy Goldsworthy uses to create his sculptures.

- _____
- _____

4. Find and copy the name of one poem written by William Wordsworth.

5. **Andy Goldsworthy is an award-winning environmental artist.**

Rewrite this sentence in your own words.

6. Give **two** ways in which you could use natural materials to create your own sculpture.

7. Explain how the art created by Andy Goldsworthy is different to that created by Robert Gillmor.

8. Which type of nature-inspired masterpiece would you most like to create? Give a reason for your answer.

Answers

1. What is the name of the Italian composer who created 'The Four Seasons'? Tick one.
 - ☐ Andy Goldsworthy
 - ☐ William Wordsworth
 - ☒ Antonio Vivaldi
 - ☐ Robert Gillmor
2. Number the artists to show the order they appear in the text. The first one has been done for you.
 - 3** William Wordsworth
 - 4** Robert Gillmor
 - 1** Antonio Vivaldi
 - 2** Andy Goldsworthy
3. List **two** materials that Andy Goldsworthy uses to create his sculptures.
Accept any two of the following: fallen leaves; branches; pebbles; stone.
4. Find and copy the name of one poem written by William Wordsworth.
I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud
5. **Andy Goldsworthy is an award-winning environmental artist.**
Rewrite this sentence in your own words.
Pupils' own responses, such as: Andy Goldsworthy is an artist who has won lots of awards for his artwork made from nature.
6. Give **two** ways in which you could use natural materials to create your own sculpture.
Pupils' own responses, such as: I could create my own sculpture using natural materials by collecting and arranging different coloured leaves. I could also weave twigs and branches together to create a structure.
7. Explain how the art created by Andy Goldsworthy is different to that created by Robert Gillmor.
Pupils' own responses, such as: The works of art created by Andy Goldsworthy and Robert Gillmor are different because Andy Goldsworthy creates sculptures that are 3D and Robert Gillmor creates flat pictures and prints that are 2D.
8. Which type of nature-inspired masterpiece would you most like to create?

Give a reason for your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I would most like to create my own piece of classical music because it would be fun to play the instruments and people would listen to it for many years to come.

Art and Nature

For millions of years, humans have created artwork inspired by the natural things around them. From the ancient cave paintings of bison and deer created in the stone age, to more modern pieces of art, such as 'The Great Wave off Kanagawa' by Japanese artist, Katsushika Hokusai. The natural world has inspired paintings, **tapestries**, music and the written word throughout human existence. Let's explore how nature could inspire you to create your own masterpiece:

Nature Inspiring Music

Italian **composer**, Antonio Vivaldi, created a piece of classical music entitled 'The Four Seasons'. 'The Four Seasons' is split into distinct sections and the sound of each section tries to represent the season it is named after. The sound of bird calls inspires 'Spring', the hum of swarms of wasps inspires 'Summer', the horns of hunters inspire the sounds of 'Autumn' and the chattering of teeth inspire 'Winter'. Why not listen to it for yourself; can you hear what Vivaldi was inspired by?

Take a walk in your local park or sit in your garden at different times of day. Close your eyes and listen to the different sounds that could inspire your own music. Think about the instruments you could use to make those sounds and the range of pitches you can hear. Can you use your body to mimic the sounds of morning birdsong?



The great wave off Kanagawa by Katsushika Hokusai is licensed under CC BY 2.0.

Nature Inspiring Sculpting

Andy Goldsworthy is an award-winning environmental artist. He uses natural materials, such as fallen leaves, branches, pebbles and stone, to create unique land sculptures.

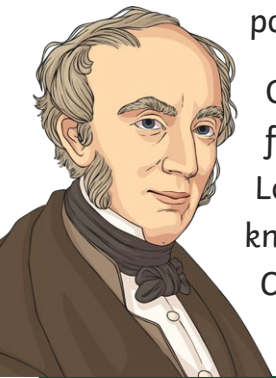
Andy created one sculpture, which he named 'Spire', from the trunks of 37 trees. Which natural materials could you use to create your own sculpture? You could collect and arrange different coloured leaves to create a pattern, weave twigs and branches together to form a structure or stack pebbles in an interesting way.

Nature Inspiring Poetry

William Wordsworth was a British poet. Many of Wordsworth's famous poems were inspired by nature.

One poem, called 'Lines Written in Early Spring', talks about flowers and plant life blooming and thriving, whilst birds hop and play nearby. Another piece, called 'To the Cuckoo', talks about the chirps and calls of a cuckoo.

Which plants or animals could you write poetry about? You may wish to describe the sights and sounds of your garden or the crunching beneath your feet on a chilly day could inspire you to write an autumnal poem full of exciting adjectives.



One of Wordsworth's most famous poems is 'I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud', often simply known by the title 'Daffodils'. Can you see how nature inspired this poem?

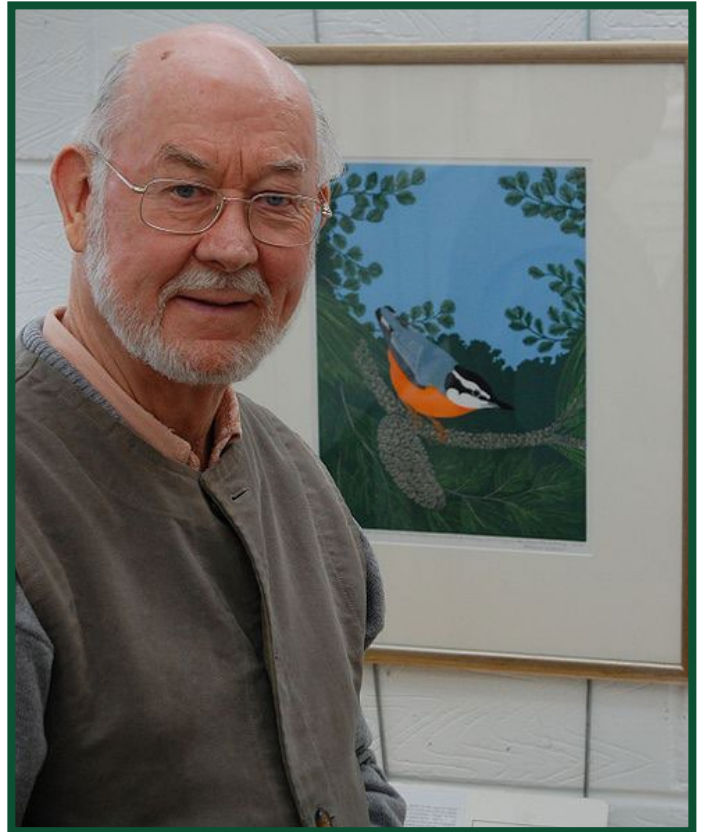
An Extract From

I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud

By William Wordsworth

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.



Robert Gillmor Photograph by Pigsonthewing is licensed under CC BY 2.0.

Nature Inspiring Artwork

Robert Gillmor is an **ornithologist**, artist and illustrator. As a child, Robert spent many hours watching his grandfather – artist Allen W Seaby – creating woodblock prints in his workshop. Just like his grandfather, Robert began creating prints inspired by birds.

Which animal would you love to become an expert on? Why not research your chosen creature online or visit a local nature reserve? Spend time watching them in their natural habitat. How do they move? What colours, patterns and textures can you see? Think about how you could recreate these using different brushstrokes, materials or equipment.





"Goldfinch in Flight" by Clive Brown

Be Inspired!

Inspiration for your own art based on nature is all around you. Birds circling in the bright sky may inspire an abstract piece of art using charcoal on a blue fabric. Materials you find during a springtime walk, such as feathers, leaves and twigs, could be used to make a natural collage. Take a camera to your local park and capture a colourful bird in flight or a busy minibeast. The possibilities are endless: why not explore your local environment and use the colours, sounds and textures of nature to create some artwork of your own?

Glossary

composer A person who writes music.

ornithologist A person who studies or is an expert on birds.

tapestry A piece of fabric with pictures or designs sewn onto it.

Questions

1. Which artist created the piece entitled 'The Great Wave off Kanagawa'? Tick one.

- ☐ Robert Gillmor
- ☐ Katsushika Hokusai
- ☐ Antonio Vivaldi
- ☐ William Wordsworth

2. Join the boxes to show the type of art created by each artist.

Robert Gillmor	sculptures
Andy Goldsworthy	poetry
William Wordsworth	prints

3. Which Italian composer created 'The Four Seasons'?

4. Find and copy the name of **two** poems written by William Wordsworth.

- ---
- ---

5. What is Robert Gillmor's artwork inspired by?

6. Give one way in which William Wordsworth and Robert Gillmor are similar and one way in which they are different.

7. Summarise the section entitled **Nature Inspiring Poetry** in 30 words or less.

8. Using information from this text, fully explain what 'Spire' is.

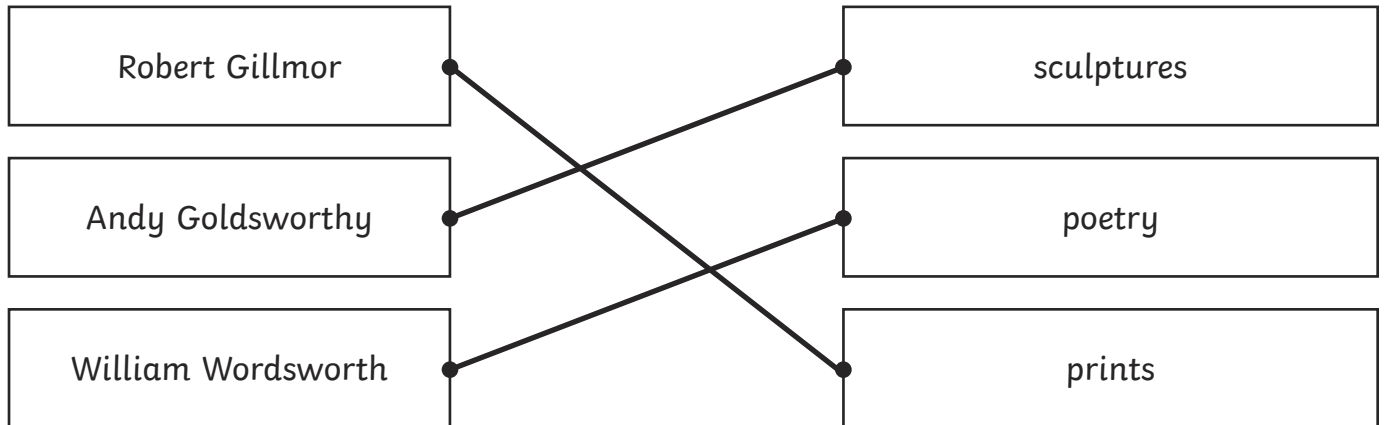
9. Comment on **two** things which may have inspired Robert Gillmor to become an artist.

Answers

1. Which artist created the piece entitled 'The Great Wave off Kanagawa'? Tick one.

- ☐ Robert Gillmor
- ☒ Katsushika Hokusai
- ☐ Antonio Vivaldi
- ☐ William Wordsworth

2. Join the boxes to show the type of art created by each artist.



3. Which Italian composer created 'The Four Seasons'?

Antonio Vivaldi created The Four Seasons.

4. Find and copy the name of **two** poems written by William Wordsworth.

Accept any two of the following: Lines Written in Early Spring; To the Cuckoo; I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud.

5. What is Robert Gillmor's artwork inspired by?

Robert Gillmor's artwork is inspired by birds.

6. Give one way in which William Wordsworth and Robert Gillmor are similar and one way in which they are different.

Pupils' own responses, such as: William Wordsworth and Robert Gillmor are similar because they both have been inspired by birds in their work. They are different because Wordsworth creates his art with words and Robert creates his art with pictures.

7. Summarise the section entitled **Nature Inspiring Poetry** in 30 words or less.

Pupils' own responses, such as: British poet, William Wordsworth, wrote poetry inspired by nature, which included birds, plants and flowers. I could write nature poetry describing the sounds in my garden.

8. Using information from this text, fully explain what 'Spire' is.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Spire is a sculpture created by Andy Goldsworthy. It is made from the trunks of 37 trees.

9. Comment on two things which may have inspired Robert Gillmor to become an artist.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Robert Gillmor may have been inspired to become an artist because his grandfather created prints and he wanted to be like him. He may have also been inspired by the beauty of the birds he loved to watch.

Art and Nature

For millions of years, humanity has been inspired to create artwork by the thing that has always surrounded us: nature. From the ancient cave paintings of bison and deer created in the stone age, to more modern pieces of art, such as 'The Great Wave off Kanagawa' by Japanese artist, Katsushika Hokusai, which is inspired by the perils of a tsunami, the natural world has been the basis of paintings, tapestries, music and the written word throughout human existence. Let's explore how nature could inspire you to create your own masterpiece:



The great wave off Kanagawa by Katsushika Hokusai is licensed under CC BY 2.0.



Nature Inspiring Music

Italian composer, Antonio Vivaldi, created a piece of music entitled 'The Four Seasons', which is believed to be one of the most famous pieces of classical music ever written.

Taking its inspiration from nature, 'The Four Seasons' is split into distinct sections, the sounds of which clearly represent the season it is named after. The sound of bird calls inspires 'Spring', the hum of swarms of wasps inspires 'Summer', the horns of hunters inspire the sounds of 'Autumn' and the chattering of teeth inspires 'Winter'. Why not listen to it for yourself; can you identify Vivaldi's natural inspiration?

Take a walk in your local park or sit in your garden at different times of day. Close your eyes and listen to the different sounds that could inspire your own music. Think about the instruments you could use to replicate those sounds, the range of pitches you can hear and the atmosphere you could try to recreate. Could you use your body to recreate the sounds of morning birdsong?



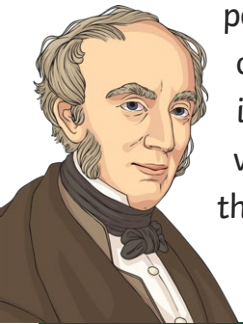
Nature Inspiring Poetry

William Wordsworth was a British poet. Many of Wordsworth's major works were inspired by the nature surrounding him.

One poem, entitled 'Lines Written in Early Spring', discusses flowers and plant life blooming and thriving, whilst birds hop and play nearby. Another piece, entitled 'To the Cuckoo', discusses the chirps and calls of a cuckoo which make him happy.

Which plants or animals could you write poetry about? You may wish to describe the sights and sounds of your garden or the crunching beneath your feet on a chilly day could inspire you to write an autumnal poem full of onomatopoeia. Perhaps

one of William's most famous poems is 'I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud', which is often simply known by the title 'Daffodils'. How can you see nature's inspiration in this poem?



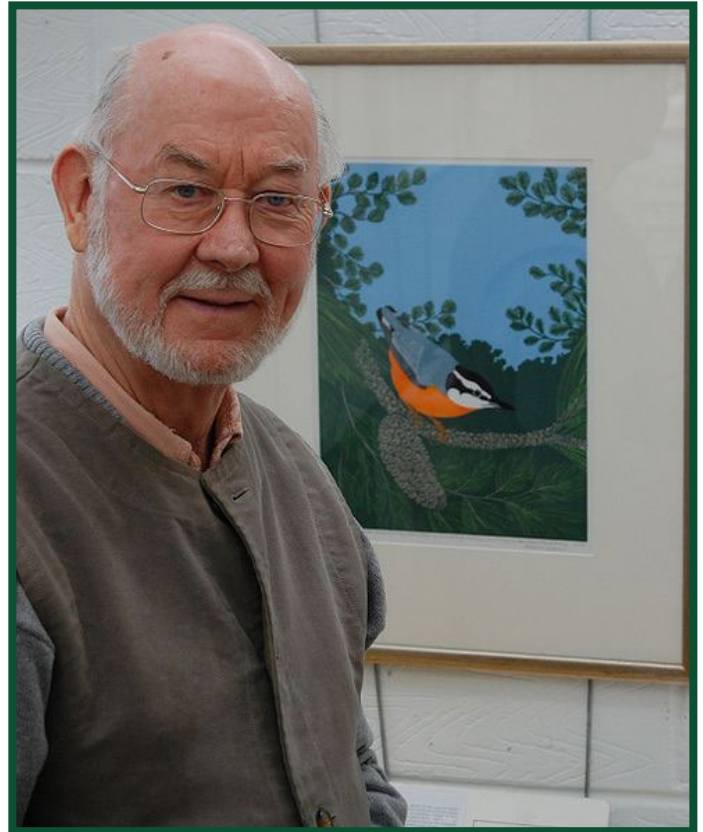
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Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.



Robert Gillmor Photograph by Pigsonthewing is licensed under CC BY 2.0

Nature Inspiring Artwork

Robert Gillmor is an ornithologist (expert on birds), artist and illustrator. Inspired by nature and wildlife for as long as he can remember, Robert spent many hours watching his grandfather – renowned artist Allen W Seaby – creating woodblock prints in his workshop. Just like his grandfather, Robert began creating artwork inspired by birds, on which he became an expert.

Which animal would you love to become an expert on? Why not research your chosen creature online or visit a local nature reserve to spend time observing them in their natural habitat? How do they move? What colours, patterns and textures can you see? Think about how you could recreate these using different brushstrokes, materials or media.



"Goldfinch in Flight" by Clive Brown

Nature Inspiring Sculpting

Andy Goldsworthy is an award-winning environmental artist who uses natural materials, such as fallen leaves, branches, pebbles and stone, to create unique land sculptures.

Andy created one sculpture, which he entitled 'Spire', from the trunks of 37 trees. Which natural materials could you use to create your own sculpture or piece of environment art? You could collect and arrange different coloured leaves to create a pattern, weave twigs and branches together to form a structure or stack pebbles in an interesting formation.



Be Inspired!

Inspiration for your own art based on the nature is all around you. Birds silhouetted against the bright sky, swarming and circling in unison, may inspire an abstract piece of art using charcoal on a blue fabric. Materials you find during a springtime walk, such as discarded feathers, leaves and twigs, could form the basis of a natural collage. Take a camera to your local park and capture a colourful bird in flight. The possibilities are endless: why not explore your local environment and use the vibrant colours, sounds and textures of nature to create some artwork of your own?

Questions

1. According to the text, which two things can be seen depicted in stone age cave paintings?
Tick **two**.

- ☐ birds
☐ deer
☐ trees
☐ bison

2. Join the boxes to show which artist created each masterpiece.

Antonio Vivaldi

Spire

Andy Goldsworthy

To the Cuckoo

William Wordsworth

The Four Seasons

3. **Robert Gillmor is an ornithologist.**
What is meant by the word **ornithologist**?

4. The trunks of how many trees were used to create the sculpture entitled 'Spire'?

5. What nationality was the artist who created 'The Great Wave off Kanagawa'?

6. Fully explain how Antonio Vivaldi's art was inspired by nature.

7. Give **two** ways in which 'I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud' takes inspiration from nature.

8. Discuss one piece of evidence which shows that humans have always been inspired by nature to create artwork.

9. Compare and contrast the work of two artists mentioned in this text.

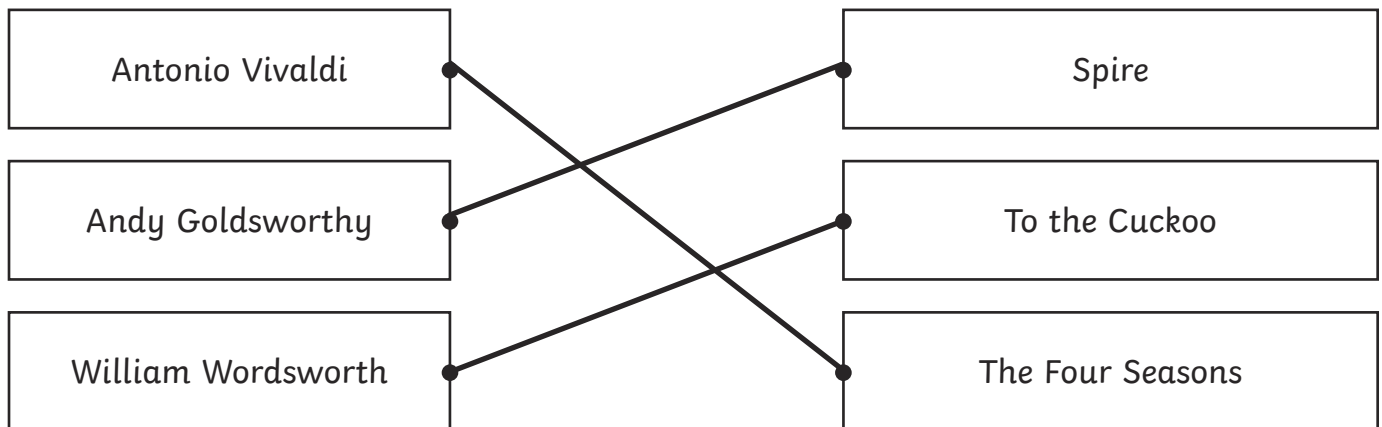
10. Other than the types mentioned in the text, how else might nature inspire someone to create a masterpiece? Give one example.

Answers

1. According to the text, which two things can be seen depicted in stone age cave paintings?
Tick **two**.

- ☐ birds
☒ deer
☐ trees
☒ bison

2. Join the boxes to show which artist created each masterpiece.



3. **Robert Gillmor is an ornithologist.**

What is meant by the word **ornithologist**?

An ornithologist is an expert on birds.

4. The trunks of how many trees were used to create the sculpture entitled 'Spire'?

The trunks of 37 trees were used to create Spire.

5. What nationality was the artist who created 'The Great Wave off Kanagawa'?

The artist (Katsushika Hokusai) who created The Great Wave off Kanagawa was Japanese.

6. Fully explain how Antonio Vivaldi's art was inspired by nature.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Vivaldi's art, a piece of classical music called The Four Seasons, was created to mimic the sounds of nature, such as bird calls and swarms of wasps.

7. Give **two** ways in which 'I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud' takes inspiration from nature.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud is inspired by nature because it mentions many natural things, such as clouds, flowers and the stars. It is also inspired by nature because William Wordsworth seems to have been walking through nature when he wrote it.

8. Discuss one piece of evidence which shows that humans have always been inspired by nature to create artwork.

Pupils' own responses, such as: One piece of evidence that humans have always been inspired by nature is the pictures of deer and bison that were found in stone age caves, dating from millions of years ago.

9. Compare and contrast the work of two artists mentioned in this text.

Pupils' own responses, such as: William Wordsworth and Robert Gillmor are similar because they both have been inspired by birds in their work. They are different because William creates his art with words and Robert creates his art with pictures.

10. Other than the types mentioned in the text, how else might nature inspire someone to create a masterpiece? Give one example.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Someone may be inspired to create a piece of digital art on the computer based on their favourite animal or a landscape scene.