

## Teacher lesson idea Woodland modelling

On the Marks Hall Estate in Essex there is a pair of ancient oak trees. One of them is believed to have been struck by lightning. You can see the damage – the tree has three large holes giving it the characteristic appearance of the painting by Edvard Munch called “The Scream” ([www.ibiblio.org/wm/paint/auth/munch](http://www.ibiblio.org/wm/paint/auth/munch))



Pupils visiting Marks Hall Estate made wonderful plaques inspired by “The Scream” using Modroc (plaster impregnated bandage for modelling and sculptures)



## Teacher lesson idea

### Woodland modelling

Choose a tree or two in the school grounds or a nearby wood whose features would make interesting plaques. Get the children to make their plaques in situ.

#### You will need:

modroc plaster bandage  
latex gloves  
plastic trays  
water  
thick card cut to A3 or bigger

- Divide children into small, mixed ability groups.
- Give each group a quantity of Modroc, a tray of water, gloves and a piece of thick card appropriate to their age and ability (a larger than A3 piece of card might be more suitable for younger/less able pupils working in groups or pairs)
- Ask them to spend some time just observing the shapes made by the tree. Is it symmetrical? Where is one feature in relation to another? Which parts stick out most? How will we make sure that those parts stick out on our plaques?
- Then give the children free reign to create a raised image of their observations on to their piece of card

After wetting in the water tray, the Modroc bandage needs to be gently squeezed to remove excess water. The bandage can be ripped easily with the hands to create smaller pieces. The surface dries relatively quickly and sticks well to itself and the card. The plaques will need over 24 hours in a warm room to dry completely. Once dry, they can be painted if the paint is not too watery.

This modelling activity is easily achievable within two hours if you are in a wood, maybe less time if in the school grounds.

Modroc can be ordered through most educational suppliers in strips of 20cm width and various lengths.



Marks Hall Estate: Alison Ratcliffe