

# NATURAL PAINT



**Synthetic dyes were only developed in the late 19th century so up until then, people used the natural juices and colours of plants and animals to dye cloth/paint with.**

Making your own natural dyes/paint is great fun, as some of you will know from our dabble with blackberry juice at Forest School. The picture below is the range of clouds that I managed to make from things in my fridge/freezer/cupboards and garden... see what you can find at home... I do hope you don't make as much mess as me!



**Turmeric** - a root used in Indian cooking (usually dried and then ground) has been used for centuries as a potent yellow dye. Mix 1 table spoon of turmeric with 3 table spoons of water. Leave to infuse for a few minutes and then strain

**Carrot:** I blitzed this up with some water but the colour was quite poor

**Onion Skin:** Keep the skin after you have used an onion for cooking. Just cover with water and then boil for 10 minutes. Strain the liquid and discard the skins

**Cherry/Blackberries:** I had these in my freezer. I added a smidge of warm water, blitzed in a food processor and then strained the juices off.

**Red Cabbage:** I chopped this up and then added a bit water and blitzed in a food processor for the first batch. I then put some of the cabbage into the microwave for 30 seconds and this turned it a more blue/purple. The last lot I added some bicarbonate of soda too - this made it go **aqua marine!**

**Grass:** Pick some succulent chunky grass stalks, chop up a little bit, blitz with some warm water and then strain.



See Tie Dye PDF for instructions on what to do with your fabric.