

## Terrific Topic

Hello Diamonds Class! I hope you had a lovely week in the sunshine last week? I hope you enjoyed your topic activities last week, and are looking forward to this week's learning!

Have you managed to spot any ducklings yet? I've seen two families at Petersfield Lake—one with three babies, who were born on my birthday last Thursday, and one family, a few days older with ... well.. have a look at the video clip and see if you can count the babies! Keep a look out for ducklings, coots, moorhens, geese or swans on the Lake/Buriton Pond, or keep a very close lookout for nesting birds in your garden. If you see a pair of birds returning to the same place in a hedge or nesting-box, you may have a nest — shhhhhh, don't disturb them, or they may abandon their eggs. Perhaps you can keep a diary of anything interesting you see.

Have you seen any caterpillars or butterflies yet? Try to take photographs if you do, and perhaps try to find out the name of the creature you have spotted.

I'd like to stress again that the activities below are guidelines only — they represent what we would have done in class, with modifications for home learning. Please don't feel you have to do *all* these activities (unless you want to of course!) — pick and choose those your children would enjoy, or modify them to suit your family circumstances. Remember too, you don't have to do all these activities in one go — spread them out to suit your family's timetable and your child's concentration levels. These activities are for both year groups to have a go at, if they would like to (working to their own levels) but I have also included some more 'Early Years'-oriented activities at the end of the page, specifically aimed at Year Rs.

### 1. A Duckling Hatches.

Speaking of ducklings, I've included a video on the video page of one of our eggs hatching in our classroom incubator, last time I did this project. The duckling had to work very hard to peck out of his egg. Can you talk to your grown-up about how the duckling was born and describe what happens? How do you think the duckling felt when he came out of his egg?

### 2. Caterpillar Lifecycle part 1

I'd like you to make a caterpillar. Last time we made them using a big flat lolly stick, scrumpled-up tissue-paper and a pom-pom for his head:



If you don't have these resources, then try experimenting—perhaps you could find a nice fat stick (about double the length of a toilet roll) and wind different coloured thread around it to make a pretty pattern, or peel the bark off it and paint it or colour it with felt-tip pens. You could ask your grown-up to help you cut out some eyes for him.



KEEP YOUR CATERPILLAR SAFE—you will need him later in the Topic!!

### 3. Maria Merian Part 2

a) What can you remember about the life of Maria Merian? Watch the video about her life on the video page to see what else you can find out about her. I've also put up a video of one of her actual books for you to look at. Can you draw a picture of Maria (look back at the powerpoint for pictures of her) and write about her life. Why do you think she is famous? What were her achievements? How did she change the way people thought? How did that help the world? Or perhaps if you have an iPad or iPhone you could use the iMovie app to make a video about her life, with pictures. You can send them to [j.burrough@buriton.hants.sch.uk](mailto:j.burrough@buriton.hants.sch.uk) if you'd like me to put them up on the website (otherwise email me and I'll send you my WhatsApp details).

b) Show children photographs of butterflies in the Powerpoint. Discuss patterns, shapes — **not colours**, Stress to the children they're going to be using their 'scientist eyes' and their 'artist eyes' — just like Maria Merian, they're going to look and look and *look* to get the shapes exactly right and not miss a single thing... use **A5 size** art paper, or cut a piece of normal A4 paper in half (not any bigger, else the children find it harder to relate each part of the picture to another) and a **drawing pencil**, not coloured pencils — this exercise is to train the children to spot shapes relative to other shapes, and to focus on the symmetry of the butterfly, without being distracted by the colour. Here are some examples from last time: can you recognize the butterfly they drew? Can you make your picture even better? You can find the butterfly pictures at the bottom of the document, or take a photo of a butterfly you've seen in your garden, and carefully draw that.



#### 4. Eric Carle-style art Part 1

Have a look at the **video** of Eric Carle talking about The Very Hungry Caterpillar—can your child talk about how the artist made the caterpillar? Talk about how he cuts up different pieces of paper to make his pictures— this is known as collage.

Now we're going to look at the artist's use of colour. Watch the **video** of the 'I See a Song' book, also written by Eric Carle. Ask your child about the art in the book. Talk about the vibrant colours and the patterns, how do the different colours make you feel? Is each picture made of just one colour? Is each colour made of just one colour? Look at the picture below by Eric Carle: discuss the textures—can you spot the leaf made by scraping green paint with a fork? The red flower made by printing with a doily?



Next week we are going to make our own picture in the style of Eric Carle's 'Flowers', but first we need to make the textured paper. You will need lots of paper and a variety of colours of paint— I suggest one set of lots of shades of blues/purples, then have a go with oranges/reds/pinks, then greens and yellows — you'll need the greens for leaves and stems.

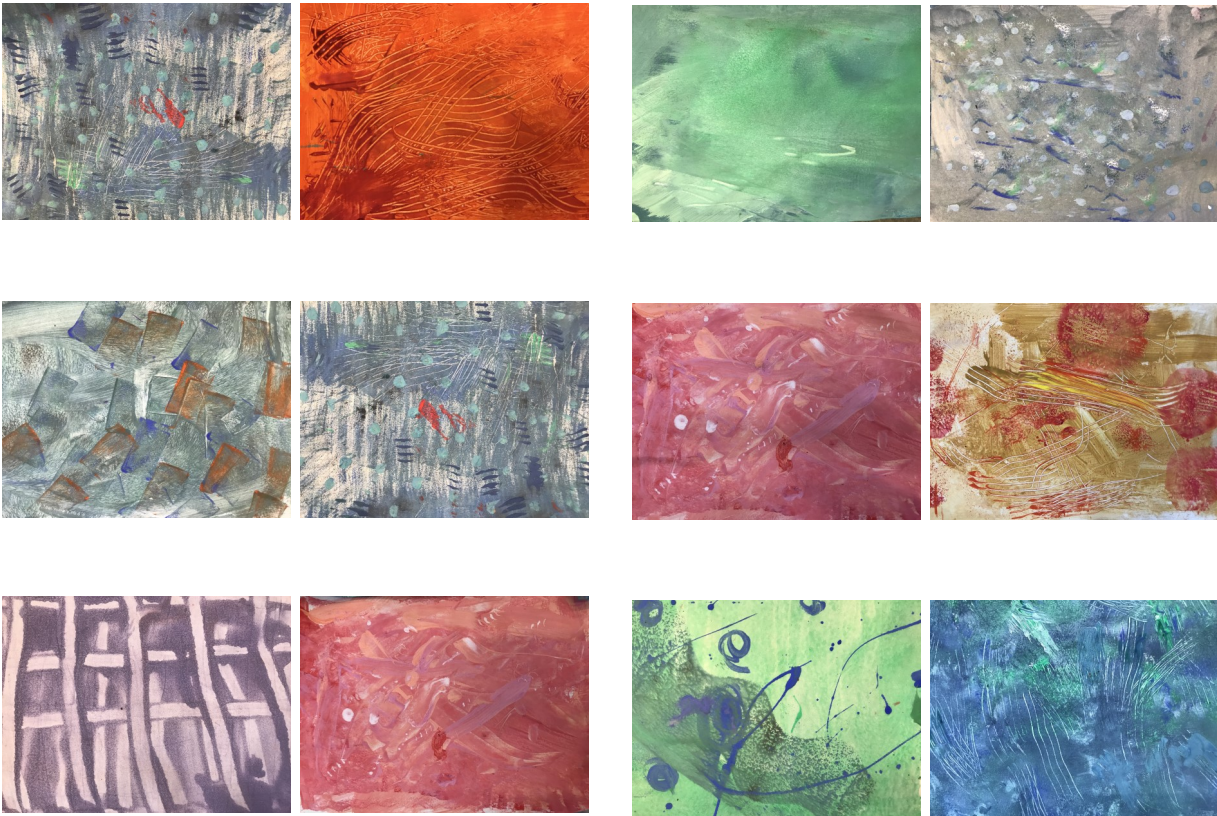
Give your child as many utensils as possible to experiment with making textures, for example brushes, sponges, rollers, forks, implements for scratching or spreading, fabrics, old toothbrushes for flicking paint, paper doilies for printing, bubblewrap, scrunched up tin foil or clingfilm for printing textures or anything else you can think of! Your paint experiments need to cover the whole paper. Nb it's quite messy, so make sure you have a protective cover on your table, or do this on a sunny day outside!

[[If you'd like more guidance on how to make textured paper visit <https://www.deepspacesparkle.com/how-to-make-painted-paper/> ]]

Here are some examples:



And here are some of the painted papers we made last time I did this project:



Have fun! And when all your fabulous papers are dry, keep them safe for next week for the next part of our art project.



And just to finish, here are a few Year- R oriented Topic activity ideas, though everyone can join in if they'd like to!

