

Subject: Art & Design.

Spring Year 3.

Unit: Exploring Painting Through History and Animals

Focus: Sketching, painting techniques, texture, scale, historical art, and animal studies

Artist / Cultural Focus:

- **Prehistoric cave artists** – mark-making and symbolism
- **Beatrix Potter** – observation and detail
- **George Stubbs** – proportion, anatomy, and realism

National Curriculum Links (Painting – KS2)

Pupils should be taught to:

- **develop techniques**, including control of line, shape, tone, texture, and paint
- **use sketchbooks** to record observations and develop ideas
- **increase confidence and control** when working with paint and mixed media
- **learn about artists and cultures** and understand how art reflects time and place
- **evaluate and refine** their artwork

Expected Prior Learning (what pupils already know and can do)

Pupils will have previously:

- mixed colours, including tints and shades
- experimented with washes, layering, and texture
- painted landscapes and reflections from observation
- used sketchbooks to record ideas
- discussed artists' techniques using appropriate vocabulary

End Goals (Know That / Know How)

Know that:

- artists from different times use line, texture, and paint in different ways
- line weight can show movement, emphasis, and texture
- combining materials (e.g. charcoal and paint) can add depth
- scale and proportion affect the impact of an artwork

Know how to:

- vary line weight and texture in sketches
- use charcoal and paint together to create textured images
- enlarge a drawing while keeping proportions accurate
- sketch animals accurately from observation

Key Vocabulary:

Drawing & Line: line, weight, texture, sketch, detail

Painting & Technique: charcoal, blend, contrast, layer, refine, texture

Art Language: prehistoric, scale, proportion, composition, observation, artist

Medium Term Plan Overview

Session 1 – Prehistoric Painting: Sketching Different Weights

Learning Objective:

To explore line weight and texture in sketches inspired by prehistoric cave art.

Key Activities:

- Explore images of prehistoric cave paintings
- Sketch animals and symbols using varied line weights
- Discuss how line shows movement and emphasis

Assessment Focus:

- Uses light and heavy lines intentionally
- Experiments with texture and mark-making

Session 2 – Prehistoric Painting: Charcoal and Paint

Learning Objective:

To use charcoal and paint to create textured prehistoric-style images.

Key Activities:

- Demonstrate charcoal outlines and shading
- Apply paint over charcoal, exploring blending and contrast
- Discuss how combining media adds depth

Assessment Focus:

- Combines materials purposefully
- Uses texture to enhance images

Session 3 – Prehistoric Painting: Enlarging Images

Learning Objective:

To enlarge sketches to create a more impactful painting.

Key Activities:

- Select a sketch from previous sessions
- Use grids, tracing, or projection to enlarge designs
- Begin painting large-scale images

Assessment Focus:

- Maintains proportion when enlarging

- Works confidently at a larger scale

Session 4 – Prehistoric Painting: Completing Enlarged Work

Learning Objective:

To complete and refine large prehistoric paintings.

Key Activities:

- Add layers, texture, and final details
- Reflect on composition and scale
- Share and discuss completed work

Assessment Focus:

- Refines work through layering
- Evaluates own and others' artwork

Session 5 – Animal Painting: Artist Study (Beatrix Potter / George Stubbs)

Learning Objective:

To study animal drawings and paintings and create observational sketches.

Key Activities:

- Explore work by **Beatrix Potter** and **George Stubbs**
- Observe how artists show fur, movement, and form
- Create detailed animal sketches from references

Assessment Focus:

- Observes carefully
- Includes detail and accurate line

Session 6 – Animal Painting: Final Artwork

Learning Objective:

To create a painted animal picture using techniques studied from artists.

Key Activities:

- Transfer sketches to final paper or canvas
- Apply paint with attention to texture, layering, and detail
- Evaluate final artwork

Assessment Focus:

- Applies painting techniques with control
- Produces a finished, detailed artwork
- Reflects on artistic choices

Future learning this content supports:

- **To develop** confidence in combining drawing and painting techniques

- **To build** understanding of scale, proportion, and composition for more complex artworks
- **To strengthen** observational skills for portrait, still life, and figurative painting
- **To encourage** refinement, evaluation, and purposeful decision-making in KS2

Differentiation

Support: templates, tracing paper, step-by-step guides, alternative tools

Challenge: independent scaling, layered textures, refined detail and composition

Resources

Sketchbooks, pencils, charcoal, paints, brushes, palettes, water pots, large paper, reference images of prehistoric art, Beatrix Potter, and George Stubbs