

Adders are Amazing! Gwiberod Gwych!

20. WINDOW SCENES

INTRODUCTION

Our project artist Emily Laurens worked with a Year 6 school group to make some beautiful tissue 'stained glass windows' for our Adders are Amazing! exhibition. They are simple to make and can be adjusted to the season. It works best as an indoor activity. This can be adapted to work with any scene or animal, but we liked putting adders into these seasonal windows, showing what they are doing at different times of the year. We particularly liked the autumn scene, as the adder finds a pile of leaves to go into to hibernate! It helps the children understand the ecology and natural cycles of the adder, which in turn helps them relate to them.

MATERIALS:

- Cardboard frames (hand cut from old cardboard boxes to a size of your choice).
- Wet strength tissue paper (see 'Resources' section)
- Bleed-resistant tissue paper in various colours (See 'Materials and Resources')
- Scissors
- Slightly watered down PVA glue, pots and brushes

MAKE IT!

1

Start by asking the children to think up designs for the window scenes. Cut out shapes from the coloured tissue paper and arrange them in the cardboard frame until happy with the design.

2

Start with a big piece of white, wet strength tissue paper, cut to the outside edge of the frame – glue this onto the frame, then start applying the sky, then grass and details over the top of this – using PVA glue spread over the layers to stick them to each other.



MAKE IT!

3

Ask the children to check the progress by holding their scene in front of a window, to make sure they are getting the effect they want and to add more details if they wish. Here is an adder going to hibernate in an autumn scene.



4

Leave the 'windows' to dry fully, before trimming off the tissue paper edges, painting the cardboard frame black and mounting to the windows using sticky dots or Blu Tack. This winter night-time scene had an adder crossing a bridge!

