

## Paint with Petals



### You will need

- Something to collect colour samples in (a plastic egg box is perfect)
- Somewhere to collect samples from
- Small flat stone; piece of slate or flat saucer or tray that can be washed in boiling water
- Round smooth pebble/ rock that fits in palm of your hand nicely
- Paint brush (or alternative)
- A few pieces of paper or something to paint onto
- Small amount of water

On your travels collect some items of colours that interest you (these could be flower petals, leaves, pinch of sand, soil, bark etc) Be careful what you collect remember our rules about not collecting wild flowers, ask permission first and look carefully before you actually pick something up (it may be spikey or prickly) Ask and research if you are unsure before you collect and if you still don't know don't collect them, Better Safe than Sorry. Always wash your hand thoroughly after collecting your items.

For items such as leaves and petals will need to be crushed to get the pigments out of them. Cover your working area with a cloth/ old sheet or newspaper to prevent making unwanted stains. Take your flat slate or plate/ tray and use your pebble/ rock to crush the item you've chosen. DON'T bash - you won't get an even result and you might break something or catch your fingers. DON'T use a breadboard - they are porous and will absorb the pigment. Make sure you wash your hands after crushing items so that you protect yourself and you don't accidentally mix colours!

You can also use everyday items from your kitchen, but remember to ask first! Try small  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoons of items like; tomato sauce, mustard, herbs and spices, soy sauce, soaps, etc. Some spices you may have to mix with a drop of water or oil to get them to act like paint. Take a very small amount of the spice/ herb (the handle end of a teaspoon will be enough) and put it on your saucer/ slate then add 1 drop of water or oil (use another teaspoon to collect this) and stir. You might have to experiment to see which one you like best, or it may produce a different result. Some spices can irritate the skin and eyes, so always wash your hands after you've mixed your colours.

Take a sheet of paper and write RECIPES at the top, then underneath on the left hand side draw a small box about 1cm square. See examples below.

Paint inside the square with your colour and then write how it was made. For example:  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon (or write this like  $\frac{1}{4}$ tspn for short) of 'name of spice' + 1 drop of water or 5 petals from a red geranium + 4 drops of water.

Repeat this until you have your recipe sheet full of colours. Note what items create which colours - you might get some really nice surprises!



Colours from my kitchen, the bright orange is orange juice and the blue is fabric-conditioner

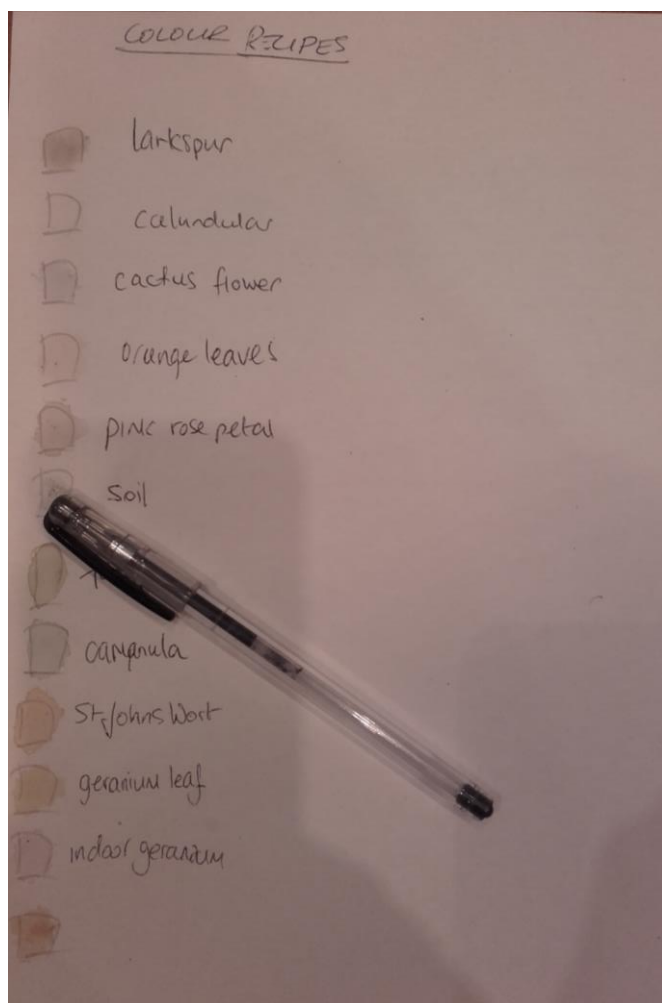
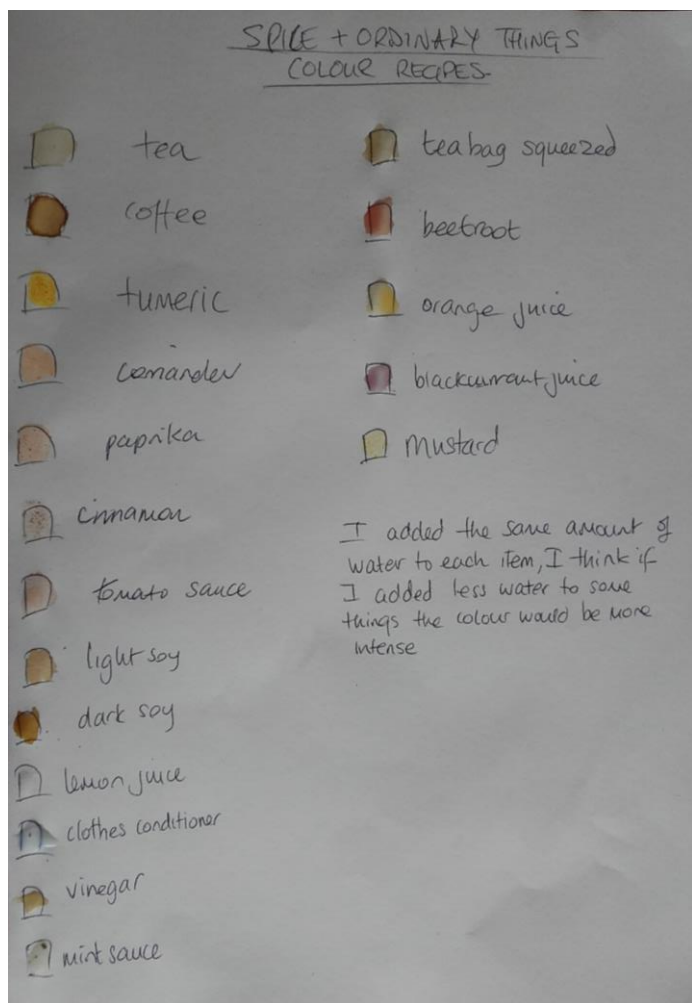
Have a look at my recipe sheets below to see what they looked like after painting with them

When you have a nice selection of colours you can choose which ones you'd like to make more of so that you can paint with. Make sure you protect any tables with some form of covering before you do any painting.

Fill your egg box with a selection of colours to act as an artist's palette and begin to paint or write with them. If you run out of your colour you can make more by following your recipe and repeating the process to make more.

It's your creation so you can do almost anything you want.

Here are my results, you can see the natural colours are more pastel than the spices but they are still pretty



Hope you have fun; remember to send us some photos of your creations.