



# Ikon Activity Pack

## KS2

This pack includes practical activities inspired by our current exhibitions by Judy Watson and John Newling. Recommended for ages 7 – 11.

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**IKON**



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# John Newling



*A Library of Ecological Conversations  
(Leaves and Me) (2017-2019)*



John Newling in his studio

# Judy Watson



*standing stones, gumbi gumbi, stone tool  
(2020)*



*standing stone, kangaroo grass, red and  
yellow ochre (2020)*



# Painting

## Experimental application

Watson finds inspiration in places of historical significance. She then uses experimental processes to create her works.

**You will need:** paper, charcoal or markers, paint, ink and scissors



1. Find an image of a landmark that is significant to you, online or in a newspaper or magazine. Print, cut it out and use it as a stencil.
2. Use paint, ink, dry pigments, charcoal or markers to leave an impression on the page, around your stencil.
3. Remove your stencil to reveal a negative space.



4. Experiment with different application tools. Try using scraps of fabric to apply paint, or smudging pigments with your fingers.

# Typography

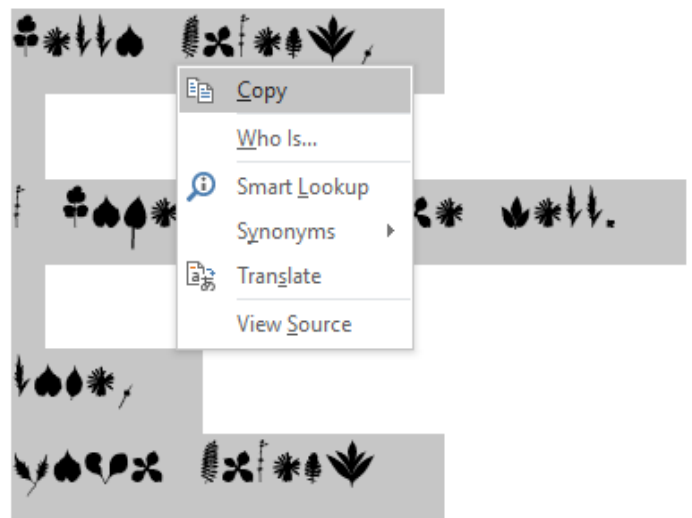
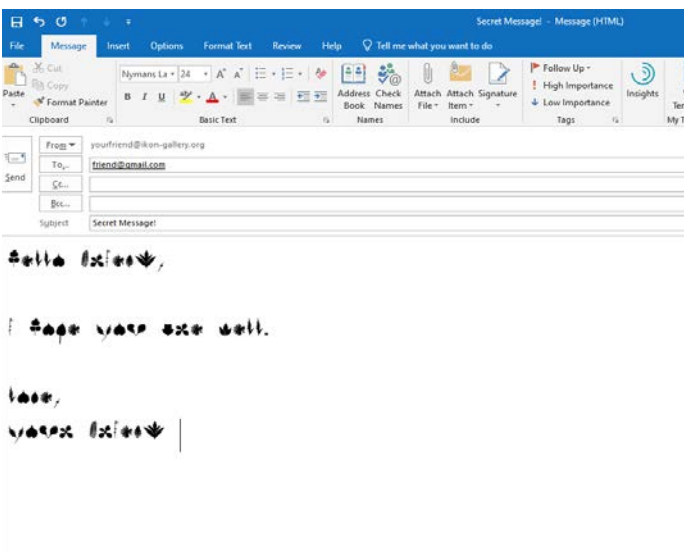
## Coded letters

John Newling used the plants he found in Nymans gardens to create an alphabet. You can download *Nymans Language* from John Newling's website. Try writing your friend a coded email.

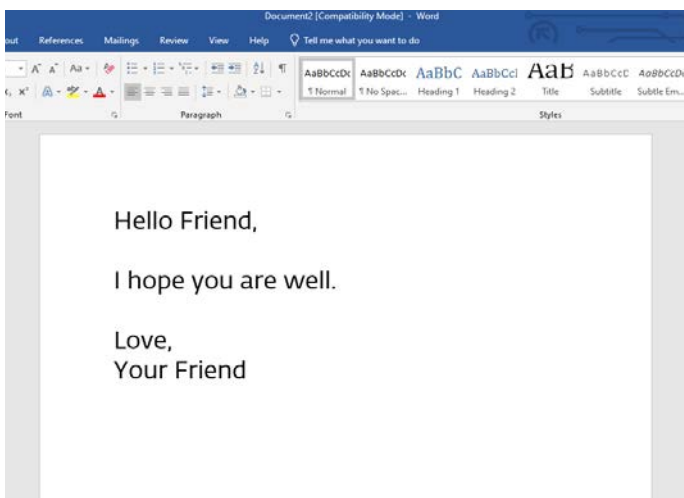
**You will need:** A computer, email, and Microsoft Word.

1. [Download \*Nymans Language\*](#), an English language font. Your friend will need to download it too. Send an email written in *Nymans Language* font.

2. They need to copy the text and paste it into a Word document.



3. Highlight the text and change the font to an English font. Now they can read your message!



# Papermaking

## Cyclical process paper

John Newling is interested in cyclical processes. Practice this by using old letters to create a new one.

**You will need:** Junk mail, a blender, a splash screen, a bowl/deep dish, small plant seeds, a spoon, and scissors (optional).



1. Collect some junk mail and tear it into small pieces. You will need to remove any plastic windows from envelopes.
2. Put your paper into a blender and cover with warm water. Leave this to soak for an hour, or, until the paper is soft and mushy.
3. Use the pulse setting on your blender to make a pulp.
4. Pour your pulp into your bowl/dish and mix in your seeds with a spoon.
5. Submerge your splash screen in the mixture and lift it out slowly. Repeat until the screen is evenly covered.
6. Firmly press the back of your spoon over the top of the pulp to get rid of excess water.
7. Set down the splash screen to dry. This can take up to 2 days. If you're impatient you can use a hairdryer!
8. Once your paper is dry peel it off the screen and cut it into a rectangle or whatever shape you like.
9. Write a letter to a friend. They can plant your letter once they have read it!

# Collage

## Magazine leaves

Look through old magazines and find colours or shapes that remind you of leaves. Cut or tear pieces of paper to build up a leaf shape

**You will need:** paper, scissors and glue.



# Drawing

## Exquisite leaves

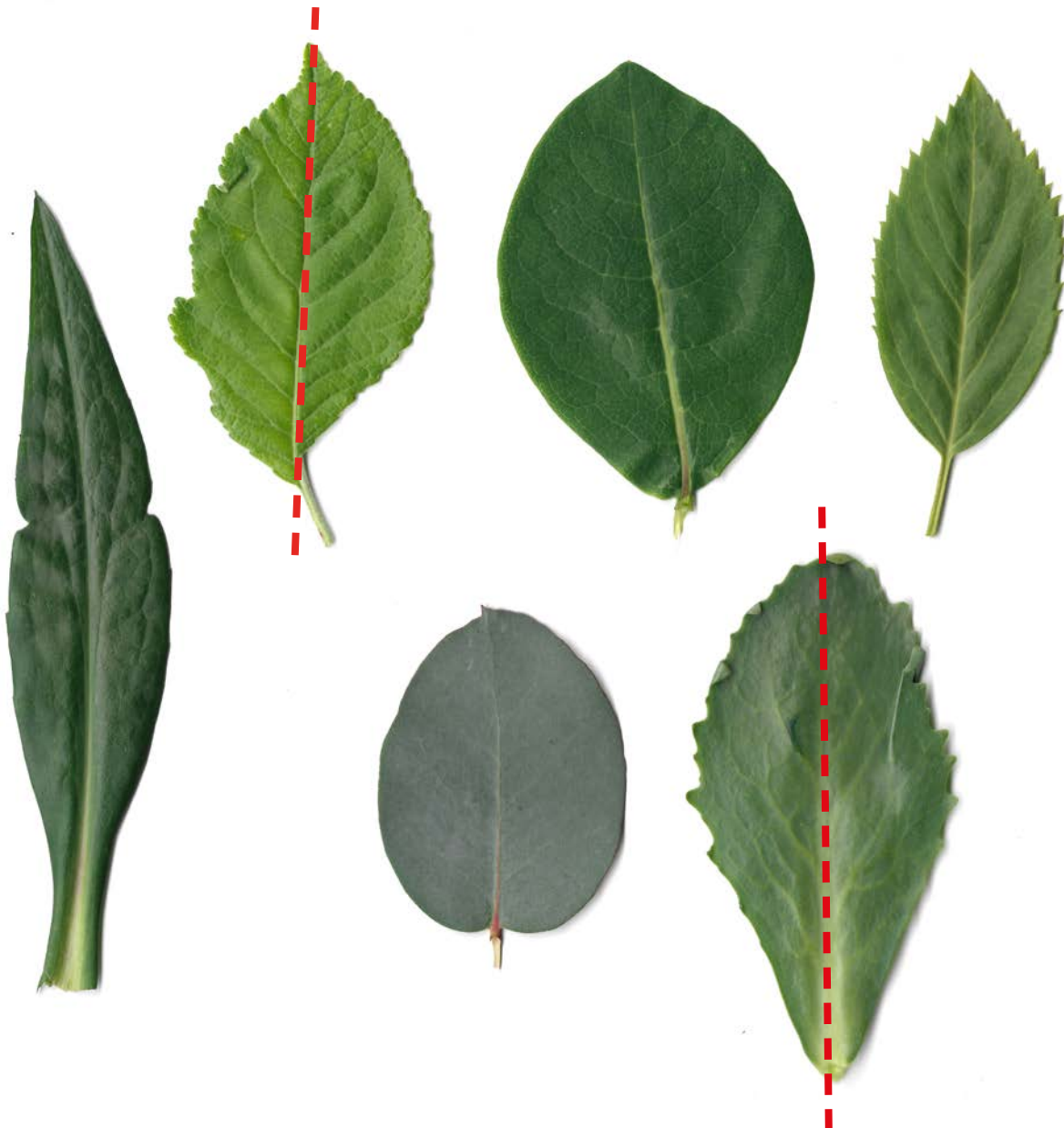
Most leaves are not perfectly symmetrical! John Newling enjoys working with natural materials because their imperfections make things unique.

**You will need:** leaves, paper, pens.

1. Look for leaves around your home and in your garden. Are they symmetrical?

**Tip:** The line of symmetry follows the main vein down the middle of the leaf.

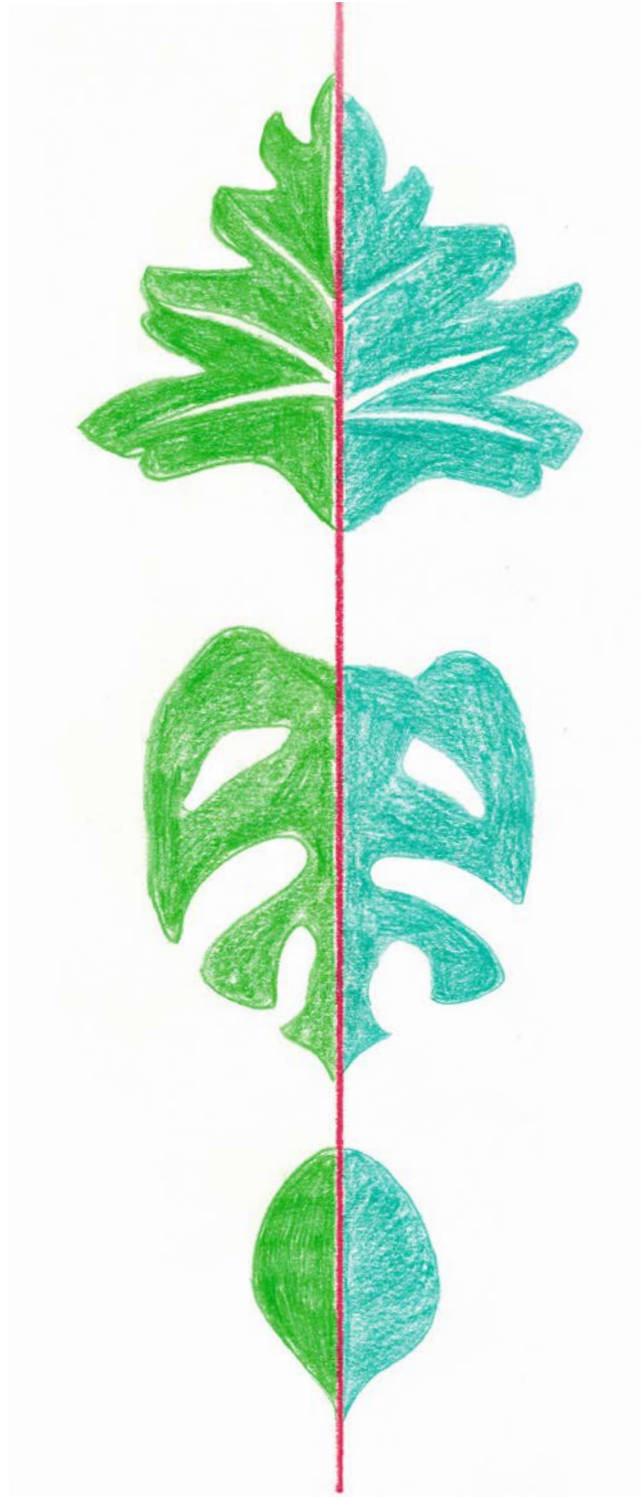
2. You are a part of nature too! Look at your face. Is it exactly the same on both side? What differences can you spot? What features make you unique?





4. Using the leaves you have found, draw one half on a piece of paper.

5. Ask someone else to complete the drawing, trying to keep it symmetrical. They won't be perfectly symmetrical, but this makes them more interesting!





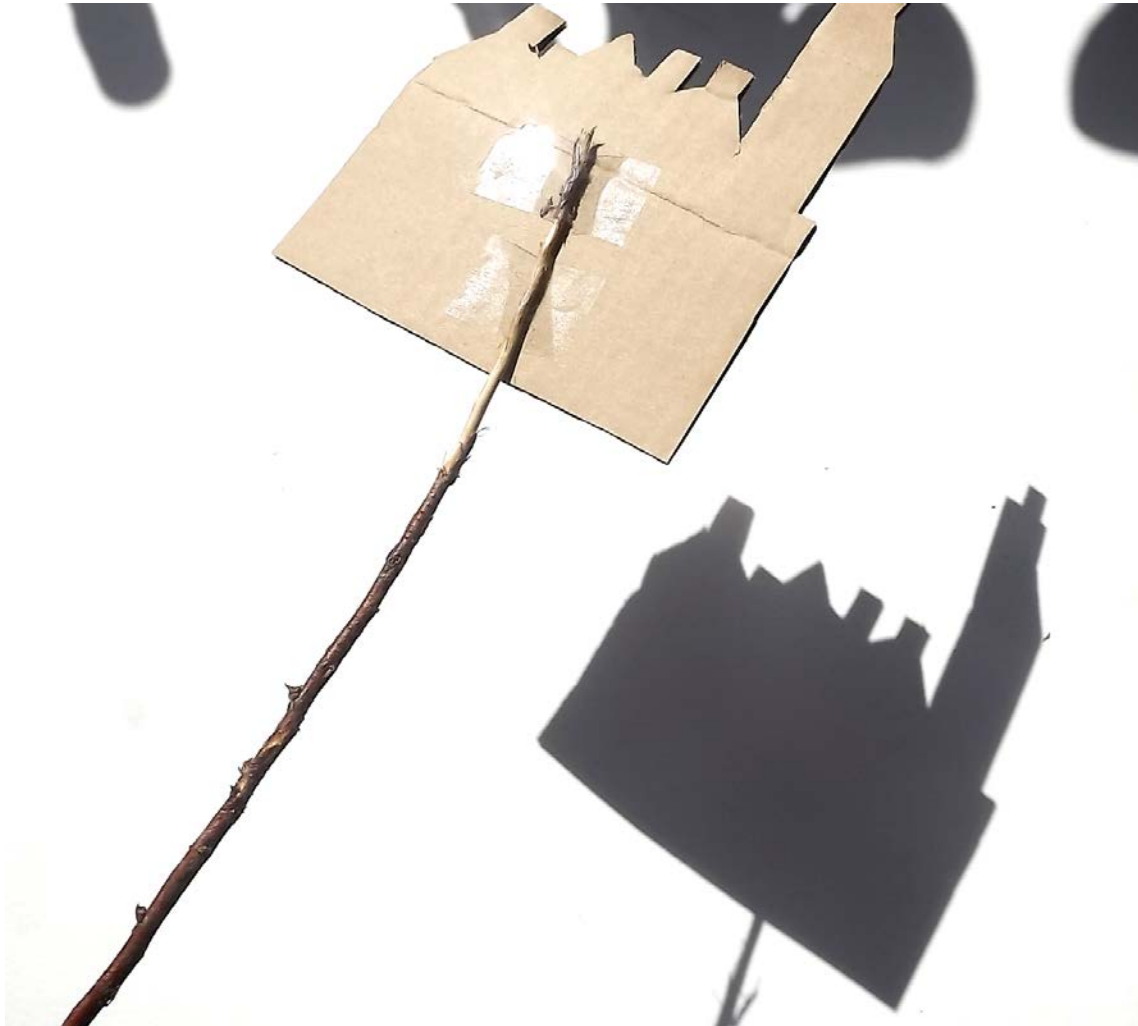
# Theatre

## Shadowy silhouettes

In her own words, Judy Watson “loves working with the shadows in everything.” She is also interested in landmarks, such as Stonehenge, Avebury, Hebrides and Orkney. Create some silhouettes of landmarks using cardboard and sticks.

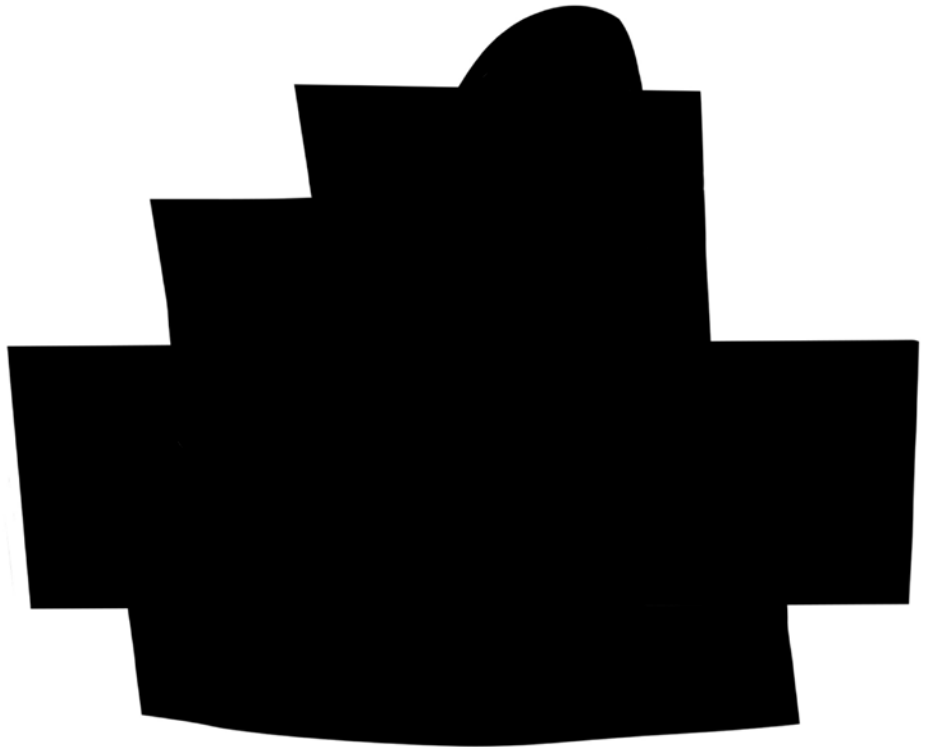
**You will need:** paper, card, scissors, tape and sticks.

1. Draw the silhouette of a local landmark on a piece of cardboard. (There are some examples you could use on pages 10 and 11.)
2. Cut it out.
3. Tape a stick to the back.
4. Play with the shadows your silhouettes make in front of a window.

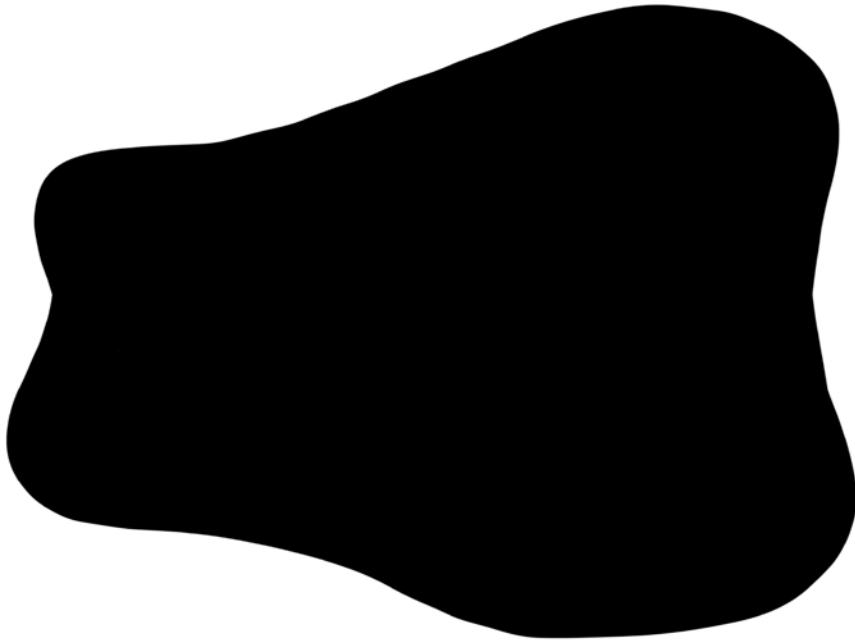




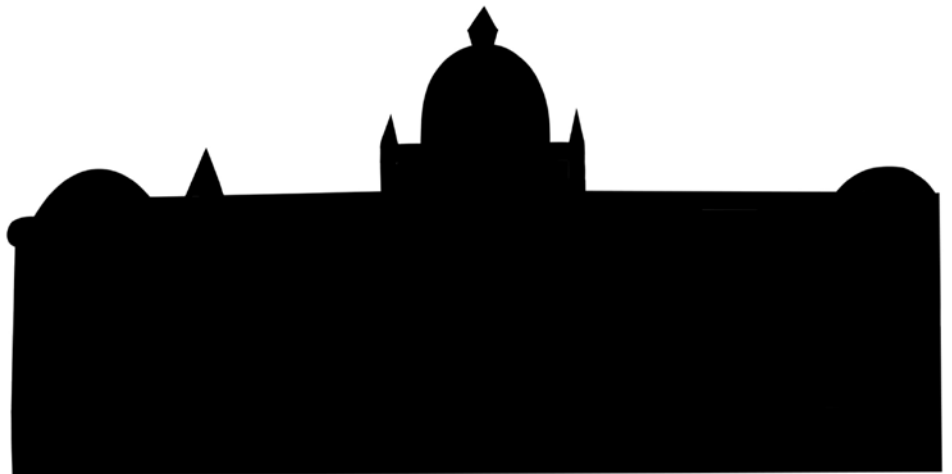
Ikon Gallery



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**Ikon Gallery**  
1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace,  
Birmingham B1 2HS  
+44 (0) 121 248 0708 / [ikon-gallery.org](http://ikon-gallery.org)

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