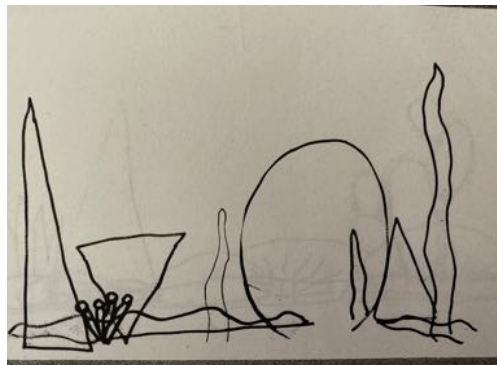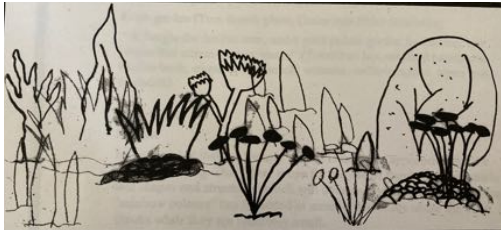# CREATIVE ARTS learning springboards

Plant shapes and negative space

Exploring plant shapes, texture, negative space, composition

Aim: See negative spaces; use repetition, scale, texture and tone.

Activity

- In the school grounds, garden or park, look closely at a range of individual plants and trees.
- If constrained to indoors, then look at a range of house plants for inspiration.
- Draw their overall shape. It helps to look at the negative spaces between plants.
- Annotate the drawings with notes about visual texture. (shiny, smooth, rough, bold leaf, small leaf etc)
- Each student traces their plant shapes (not details) on to tracing paper and cuts out several images of each shape at different sizes.
- Use these tracings to assemble a collage that represents a hypothetical planting bed.
- Think about repetition, scale, texture and tone but not colour at this point.

For older pupils this exercise could be a precursor to designing and making a carnival costume based on plants.

Success criteria:

✓ I can draw what I see to create the overall shape of a plant
✓ I can handle materials and techniques with skill.

Creative photography

Manipulating images from nature using digital media

Using the apps on smart phones and tablets can open up a wealth of way to 'see' the natural world and manipulate it to create photographic artworks. This could be part of a literacy activity to create images to illustrate a fairy tale or story, or to make a poster to support a particular learning outcome or scheme of work.

Activity:

- Pupils use phones or tablet to collect images of plants and habitats from around the grounds, including some close observation images.
- They can also take photos of their own shadows to manipulate with features and speech bubbles.
- Use software to create mirror images and a multitude of other effects.
- Use background removal tools to add mysterious details that are not in the original image.
- Create shadow text with natural materials

Success criteria:

✓ I can create pictures using a range of techniques and media
✓ I can use my shadow picture to illustrate my work