Amazing Materials You Can Use to Make a Collage

KS2 ART & DESIGN Ages 9-12 ⏰ 3 min read

What is a Collage?

A **collage** is an artwork you create by sticking lots of different pieces together. You can use almost anything! The word **collage** comes from a French word meaning "to glue." Artists use collages to tell stories, create pictures, or just explore textures and colours.

Paper and Card Materials

The most common collage materials are different types of **paper**. You can use coloured paper, white paper, tissue paper, and shiny wrapping paper. **Magazines** are brilliant because they have so many different colours, patterns, and pictures already printed on them. Just flip through and tear out the bits you like! You can also use **newspaper**, old books, **cardboard**, and even greeting cards.

Think of it like a giant jigsaw puzzle, except you get to decide what picture you want to make and you can cut the pieces however you want.

Natural Materials

Nature gives us amazing collage materials for free. **Leaves** of different colours work beautifully, especially in autumn. You can also use **flowers**, pressed petals, **grass**, twigs, seeds, and sand. Even **shells**, pebbles, and feathers can become part of your artwork. These natural materials add interesting textures that make your collage feel special to touch.

Recycled and Found Materials

Some of the best collage materials are things people usually throw away. Old **fabric** scraps, buttons, threads, and wool are perfect. You can use **plastic** bags, foil, packaging materials, and even bits of old jewellery. Bottle caps, straws, and cork all make interesting textures.

Think of it like treasure hunting in your recycling bin – one person's rubbish becomes an artist's treasure!

Special Materials

Glitter, sequins, beads, and pompoms add sparkle and shine. You could use **paint**, markers, or pencils to draw directly onto your collage. String, wool, and ribbon create wonderful lines and patterns. Even **photographs** can be cut up and used – though always ask before using family photos!

Getting Started

The best thing about collages is that there are no rules. Start by collecting materials that interest you. Think about colours, patterns, and textures. Plan your design on paper first, then start sticking things down with **glue**, tape, or a glue stick. Keep creating until you're happy with how it looks!

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