



Creating Different Textures in Your Artwork

KS3

ART & DESIGN

Ages 11-14



3 min read

What Is Texture in Art?

Texture is how something feels when you touch it—rough, smooth, bumpy, or soft. In artwork, texture makes your drawings and paintings more interesting and exciting. It helps viewers feel like they could reach out and touch your creation, even when it's flat on paper or canvas.

Think of it like the difference between eating a smooth chocolate bar and a crunchy cereal bar. Both taste good, but they feel completely different in your mouth—that's texture!

Using Different Materials

The easiest way to create texture is by choosing the right **materials**. If you use thick paint and apply it roughly, you'll get bumps and ridges. Try using **acrylic paint**, **oil pastels**, or even **collage materials** like fabric, paper, and leaves. Each material creates its own special feel.

You could glue torn paper onto your artwork to make it feel layered, or use sand mixed into paint to make it gritty. Some artists use crumpled foil, string, or tree bark to add interesting textures to their pieces.

Using Tools and Techniques

Your **tools** matter too! A thick **brush** creates different marks than a thin one. You can use a **palette knife** to scrape paint across your surface in bold, rough strokes. Try **stippling** (making lots of small dots), **cross-hatching** (drawing crossing lines), or **splattering** paint for dramatic effects.

Think of it like writing with different pens. A felt-tip pen makes smooth lines, but a scratchy ballpoint pen makes rougher marks—and that changes how your writing looks and feels!

Creating Texture Without Touch

You can also create the **illusion** of texture—making something look textured even though it feels smooth. Use light and shadow to suggest bumpy surfaces. Draw something with lots of detail and shading to make it seem wrinkled or rough.

Mix colours to show texture too. Lighter areas might suggest shiny or smooth spots, while darker areas can look shadowy and textured. Artists call this **visual texture**—it tricks your eye into seeing texture that isn't really there.

Experiment and Have Fun

The best way to learn about texture is to **experiment**! Try different combinations of materials, tools, and techniques. See what happens when you layer things. Some textures work better together than others, and discovering that is part of the creative process. Remember: there are no wrong answers in art—only textures you like and textures you like less!