



Pterodactyl

DESIGN A DRAGON

This month you will be designing a dragon using chalk and acrylic paint on black paper. The chalk pastels can be smudged to resemble clouds or sky and will help create a sense of the creature flying.

This is an exercise in **design** as much as **imagination**, so you will be really thinking about colour, and limiting your choice of colour palette to only 4 colours.

Although dragons come from the imagination, they are often inspired by real animals such as lizards, crocodiles, and other reptiles as well as extinct dinosaurs like Pterodactyls. It is interesting to see how inspiration can come from reality and create something totally magical with a little imagination, colour and design.



Komodo Dragon

ART PROJECT

YOU WILL NEED:

- Piece of black A3 card or paper
- Some tubes of acrylic paint
- A paint palette or paper plate
- Some paintbrushes - a mixture of thick and thin
- A jar or pot for water
- A white pencil
- Some chalk or pastels
- Hair spray (to fix your picture/stop it from smudging)



Start by doing a little sketch on a scrap piece of paper to work out your dragon shape and design. Use a white pencil on the black paper and lightly draw the whole shape.

Add some detail on your dragon such as teeth, spikes, ears, claws...

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COLOUR PALETTE



Work out your colour palette. Try to choose just 4 colours, you can use slightly lighter and darker versions of one colour. (see our palette pictured.) Try to think about unexpected colours to mix, and colours that go well together. This is one of the principles of design. Mix your first colour using the acrylic paint, you will need to add a little white to all your colours so it stands out on the black paper.

TOP TIP

Don't be afraid to leave a little black on the dragon





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Once you have painted all the areas in your first colour, you can mix your second colour. These two steps are called 'flat bases' as they provide a flat coloured surface on which to build detail. (Detail like spots can be added on top at the end because acrylic dries very quickly.)

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Repeat this step with your next colours. Try to choose a contrasting colour for the detail on top. We chose bright turquoise on our dragon's wings over the pinky red.

TOP TIP

Brushes - change your paintbrush depending on the size of the area you are painting. Really small brushes help with the detail.



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Let your painting dry for about 1 hour. Then use your chalk pastels to smudge on a little colour around the dragon in the background sky. It does not need to be solid, as this will help to create a feeling of clouds or sky. Ask an adult to help you lightly spray your finished picture with hairspray to fix the pastels, and stop them smudging.

You could invent a name for your dragon, and write it beautifully on the page, or even write a short story all about your dragon and its personal adventures. You could invent some additional characters and draw them in a similar way. Many illustrators write their own stories and visa versa as the two go hand in hand!

Have a look at these lovely examples !



Iona age 10



Nico age 7



Ben age 11



Emily age 6

Ask a grown-up to take a photo and send it to us at hello@brilliantbrainz.com

Next month's ART PROJECT will be making a MINIATURE BEACH

You will be creating a tiny imaginary little beach inside a matchbox. This idea is inspired by miniature art and you can use your own experiences of summer holidays and the seaside.

YOU WILL ALSO NEED

- ★ A large match box. (Give the matches to an adult)
- ★ Sandpaper
- ★ Cardboard and other collage materials like fabric, paper, wrapping paper, ribbons and lolly pop sticks.

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