

Acorn Cap Ink

MATERIALS

- old pot
- fine mesh strainer
- funnel
- coffee filter
- small glass jar with lid
- 2 cups washed acorn caps
- 4-5 cups water
- liquid gum arabic (1½ tsp gum powder + ¼ cup warm water)



DIRECTIONS

- 1) Combine the acorn caps and 4-5 cups of water in a pot.
- 2) Heat to boiling and simmer until the liquid is reduced.
- 3) Pour the liquid through a mesh strainer to remove the large pieces, then strain through a funnel lined with a coffee filter.
- 4) Test your ink. For a darker color, return your ink to the pot and add more acorn caps and water. Repeat steps 2 and 3.
- 5) Once you are happy with the color, add ½ teaspoon of liquid gum arabic for every ¼ cup of ink. Store in a glass jar. Enjoy!

OTHER SOURCES OF BROWN

Walnuts, oak galls, coffee, and tea.

OTHER SOURCES OF COLOR

Beets (magenta), red cabbage (violet), and tumeric (gold).



Nature Brushes

MATERIALS

- thin, strong twigs or sticks
- leaves, grasses, spruce boughs, flowers, feathers, etc.
- electrical tape
- twine or yarn for decoration (optional)
- paper
- paint or ink

DIRECTIONS

- 1) Go outside and gather some sticks and a selection of natural materials. The sticks will be your handles, and the leaves, flowers, or other gathered materials will be your bristles.
- 2) Secure your leaves or flowers to a stick using a strip of electrical tape. Decorate the handle with twine.
- 3) Make several more brushes using the other materials.
- 4) Dip each of your new brushes in paint or ink and try them out on paper. What kind of marks can you make? Paint lines, dashes, patterns, and swirls. Let nature be your guide!

