

Creative activities for schools, children and young people to engage with during lockdown

Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning

With schools across the country closed for the time being, we know it's a difficult time for teachers, students and families as they adapt to home learning. Our Creative Learning team have a wide range of arts-based activities that you can get involved with from home that we've compiled below, all of which are free to access.

Music activities

Beethoven in Nature: Music Resources

<https://sites.barbican.org.uk/beethoveninnature/>

We've put together some musical activities with musician Paul Griffiths for you to try out, inspired by composer Beethoven's love of nature. Find out more about Beethoven, learn some songs with Paul, and make your own music inspired by nature.

Suitable for KS1, KS2, SEND.

Visual Arts activities

Explore a range of creative activities linked to recent exhibitions in the Barbican Art Gallery and The Curve.

Michael Clark: Cosmic Dancer Community View

<https://sites.barbican.org.uk/michaelclark-communityview>

We've launched a brand new online community view for our school and community partners with activities inspired by the recent Barbican Art Gallery exhibition *Michael Clark: Cosmic Dancer*. Explore the following:

- [Three dance activities](#) led by Kate Coyne from [Michael Clark Company](#) for you to try with your students or from home (**suitable for all ages**)
- [A collage activity](#) led by Mitchel Ceney from [Accumulate](#) using things that you can find around the classroom or at home (**suitable for all ages**)

We encourage people to send us any creative outcomes they produce at community@barbican.org.uk; we'll be sharing them in an online gallery later this year

Toyin Ojih Odutola: A Countervailing Theory

Nigerian-American artist Toyin Ojih Odutola used drawing as a tool for storytelling in her recent exhibition in the Curve Gallery, *A Countervailing Theory*.

Watch a narrated walk through of the exhibition [here](#), then have a go at creating your own artworks and writing inspired by the themes and ideas from the exhibition [here](#).

Suitable for KS3, KS4, KS5.

Masculinities: Liberation Through Photography

Try out a range of activities that explore the themes of our *Masculinities: Liberation through Photography* exhibition, which looked at how masculinity is experienced, performed, coded and socially constructed.

[Cut price portraits art activity](#) led by Billy Mann (suitable for all ages)

[Interactive exercises](#) illustrated by Aleesha Nandhra (best for KS1-KS2)

[Writing activity](#) led by Muhammad Khan (best for KS2-KS3)

[Photography activity](#) led by Daniel Regan (best for KS3 and up)

[Free-writing activity](#) led by Annie Hayter (best for KS4 and up)

Teachers' Resources

Discover our range of teachers' resources linking to past Barbican Art Gallery exhibitions, designed to highlight key focus areas from each of the shows.

Masculinities: Liberation through Photography

Teachers' Resource [here](#).

Find out more about the exhibition [here](#).

Into the Night: Cabarets and Clubs in Modern Art

Teachers' Resource [here](#).

Find out more about the exhibition [here](#).

Lee Krasner: Living Colour

Teachers' Resource [here](#).

Find out more about the exhibition [here](#).

Dorothea Lange / Vanessa Winship: A photography double bill

Teachers' Resource [here](#).

Find out more about the exhibition [here](#).

John Akomfrah: Purple

Teachers' Resource [here](#).

Find out more about the exhibition [here](#).

Film and craft activities

Family Film Club Workshops

If you're looking for film-inspired activities for children, try out some of our Family Film Club video workshops listed below.

Best for KS1 and KS2, but suitable for all ages.

[Wizard of Oz board game](#)

Make your own board game to play with all the family, inspired by *The Wizard of Oz*.

[James and the Giant Peach animation](#)

Make an animation inspired by *Roald Dahl's James and the Giant Peach* with this workshop by artist Shelly Wain.

[Create a *Where the Wild Things Are* costume](#)

Artist Gemma G teaches you how to make fabric wolf feet and paper wolf ears, inspired by *Where the Wild Things Are*.

[My Neighbor Totoro paper puppets](#)

In this two-part video workshop made by artist Reza Ben Gajra, learn how to make paper puppets of characters from the Studio Ghibli film, *My Neighbor Totoro*.

[Animal-inspired mobile and thaumatrope](#)

Artist and illustrator Ivonne Vargas shows us how to make an interactive and animal-inspired mobile and thaumatrope – a Victorian era toy.

[Animate a dog](#)

Learn how to draw and animate an adorable dog from motion artist Pedro Allevato.

[Make your own tapestry](#)

Art collective LUPA show you how to make your own weaving loom and tapestry.

[Make a snowman and polar bear](#)

Learn how to make a wintry snowman and polar bear, inspired the books of Raymond Briggs, with Goldfinch Create and Play.

Culture Mile Play Packs

<https://www.culturemile.london/playpacks>

Culture Mile Play Packs contain activities & prompts to inspire imaginative and creative play, anywhere & without needing complicated materials. Six packs have been created so far, each with a different theme and activities from a range of artists. 10,000 physical packs have been distributed since March, and the digital resources are available free online.

Best for KS1 and KS2, but suitable for all ages.

Walthamstow Garden Party In The Air – craft activities for all ages

Lots of craft activities that can be done from home are still available via the Walthamstow Garden Party in the Air website. Explore the following

- [Make your own Toychimes and Claychimes](#) with Scribble & Smudge and E17 Toy Library:
- [Make your own with Air Loom](#) with Rezia Wahid, using materials you can find at home, in your garden, in the park or in the forest.
- [Craft your own William Morris Bird](#) by Esther Neslen and William Morris Gallery
- [Become an Art Forager](#) with Louise Weir

Theatre activities

Multi-Sensory Educational Theatre Activity Book

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/read-watch-listen/m-set-activity-book>

A step-by-step guide created by [M-SET](#) packed with great ideas to make a multi-sensory show at home. Learn how to transform furniture, toys, utensils and clothing into sets, props, sound and lighting effects to bring your stories to life.

Suitable for Early Years, KS1, KS2, SEND.

Science activities

Teacher Lab Resource

<https://sites.barbican.org.uk/teacherslab>

Explore our Teacher Lab resource, full of activities designed to find creative ways to help pupils, from Early Years to Year 6, understand the primary science curriculum. You'll find a downloadable teaching resource as well as how-to films for each year group.

Suitable for Early Years Foundation Stage, KS1 and KS2.