

Ash Wednesday Ashes Art Lesson Ideas

Ashes are used by a priest or minister to make the sign of a cross on someone's forehead, during services held on Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent when Christians remember Jesus's time in the desert, think about how they can lead better lives and how they can help others. Traditionally this is a more sombre time of reflection in Christianity and the art activities below reflect this in the use of black, grey and white shades and colours.



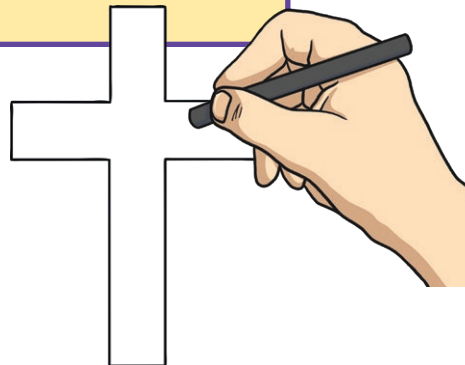
Can you use ashes or charcoal to create some Ash Wednesday art?

Ashes are messy so please wear an apron or overall and cover your work space with newspaper!

Cut out a Christian cross or crosses from a piece of card. Place the cross(es) on paper. These could be secured with masking tape or sticky dots. Draw round your cross(es) with charcoal or chalk. You could cover the rest of the paper with glue and ashes. Remove your crosses carefully to reveal the shapes they have left on your paper. This activity could also be done using the sheet the crosses were cut from so that the only shaded/covered parts on your paper are the cross shapes.

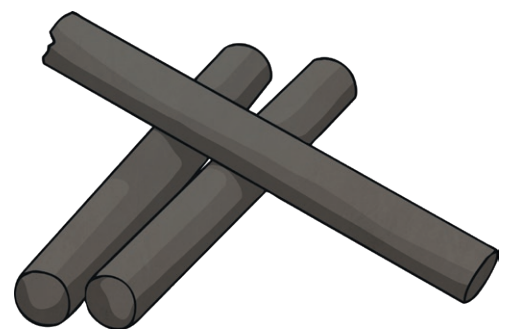
Draw a large Christian cross symbol in the centre of your paper. Cover the cross with white glue. Using ashes, crushed charcoal or chalk, sprinkle onto the glue and leave to dry. You could use a mixture of crushed charcoal, crushed chalk and ash to create patterns and variations of shade on your cross.

Using a sponge cut into a cross shape, dip the sponge into ash or crushed charcoal, making sure the sponge's surface is covered. Use it to print cross patterns on your paper.



You could also do cross printing with other materials. Use white, grey or black ink, paint and glue mixed or just paint, using shapes marked on polystyrene tiles or cut from lino squares.

Displayed together, your pupils' Ash Wednesday art work will look very effective!



CfE links:

I have the opportunity to choose and explore an extended range of media and technologies to create images and objects, comparing and combining them for specific tasks. **EXA 2-02a**

I can create and present work that shows developing skill in using the visual elements and concepts. **EXA 2-03a**