



Make your own Christmas presents for friends and family

Painted stones

Recently, painted stones have become very popular, especially in many towns and villages in which rocks are painted, hidden, found and rehidden. Sometimes these rocks are like mini pieces of art, and this is exactly the sort of thing you can make as a little Christmas gift for someone.

Think about the person you are giving this gift to. What sort of things do they like? Make sure it is personal, so they know you have made it especially for them.

Stay safe

Whether you are a scientist researching a new medicine or an engineer solving climate change, safety always comes first. An adult must always be around and supervising when doing this activity. You are responsible for:

- ensuring that any equipment used for this activity is in good working condition
- behaving sensibly and following any safety instructions so as not to hurt or injure yourself or others

Please note that in the absence of any negligence or other breach of duty by us, this activity is carried out at your own risk. It is important to take extra care at the stages marked with this symbol: ⚠

Equipment ⚠

- > Selection of stone
- > Acrylic paint
- > Clear varnish
- > Paint brushes
- > Stencils

Instructions ⚠

Try collecting a wide variety of stones. Think about the different type of stones and rocks you have collected. Are they smooth? Sharp? Hard? Crumbly? A large part of design and engineering is choosing the correct material for the job. Even our earliest ancestors needed to use their design and technology skills – they needed the right tools for the job! Look at the different stones you have collected. Is there one suitable for a Stone Age hunter? How about drawing on a cave wall? And now, which stones would be perfect for your stone painting project? What qualities do these stones need?

Step 1

Draw out your design on a piece of paper. Make sure what you have drawn on the paper will fit the stone you have chosen to paint on. You could draw round the stone to give you an outline.

Step 2

Once you are happy with your design, carefully sketch it out onto a stone.





Step 3

Now, using the acrylic paint, paint your design onto the stone.

Step 4

Once the stone is completely dry, carefully paint on a thin layer of varnish. This will make sure that the stone is hard wearing and that the paint won't chip off.

Now you are ready to give the stone to someone special.

