

# How to make *Waterlife Collage*



## You will Need:

- 4 sheets newspaper.
- Assorted coloured paper eg: tissue, recycled wrapping, magazines etc.
- Some wool or coloured thread.
- Recycled bubble wrap or cling film.
- Tiny back pompoms, black felt dots or tissue.
- Scissors
- Stapler
- Black felt tip pen
- Glue stick or PVA
- String
- A stick, 45cm approx

1. To make the background for your collage lightly glue 3 sheets of newspaper together, one on top of the other, using a glue stick around the edges.
2. From the leftover sheet of newspaper cut 2 strips: 28 x 8 cm approx. Staple these to the top corners of your background along the shortest edge. The aim is to make 2 loops to put your stick through when the collage is finished.
3. Turn your background over and start arranging your coloured paper to form a sky at the top and a river at the bottom. Experiment by tearing or cutting layers of colours and shapes to create wispy clouds and flowing, twinkling, ripples on the water. When you're happy with the way it looks, stick it down.
4. Add some plant life. Are there water lilies or bulrushes in the river? Maybe some reeds and weeds tangled underneath the water on the riverbed? Create a feeling of distance by putting small plants behind larger ones along the horizon line (where the river meets the sky) making it seem that they're further away.

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5. Cut bubble wrap or cling film into cloud shapes to make frogspawn. Draw the little black dots on with a felt tip. Wait until you have your tadpoles and you can arrange and glue them onto the collage together.
6. To make your tadpoles stick down little black pompoms, dots of felt, or scrunched up black tissue, then draw the tails on with a black felt tip.
7. Draw a leaping frog onto some green paper, you might need a picture to copy. With a felt tip pen draw on eyes and markings. Cut out and stick to your collage so that he's leaping from the water. Maybe he's trying to catch a fly? Could you draw that too?
8. Turn the collage into a wall hanging by feeding your stick through the 2 loops. Knot a length of string at either end of the stick and hang pride of place for everyone to enjoy. It's a masterpiece!



Feel free to vary your design. There are so many beautiful river creatures you could include: dragonflies, water boatmen, fish, frogs, newts, kingfishers, moorhens... You could use fabric or felt if you have some to hand, maybe some foil could become a fish? Would a lolly stick make a good bulrush? Rivers are wonderful lively places, the perfect inspiration for artists of all ages!

