

HORNCHURCH

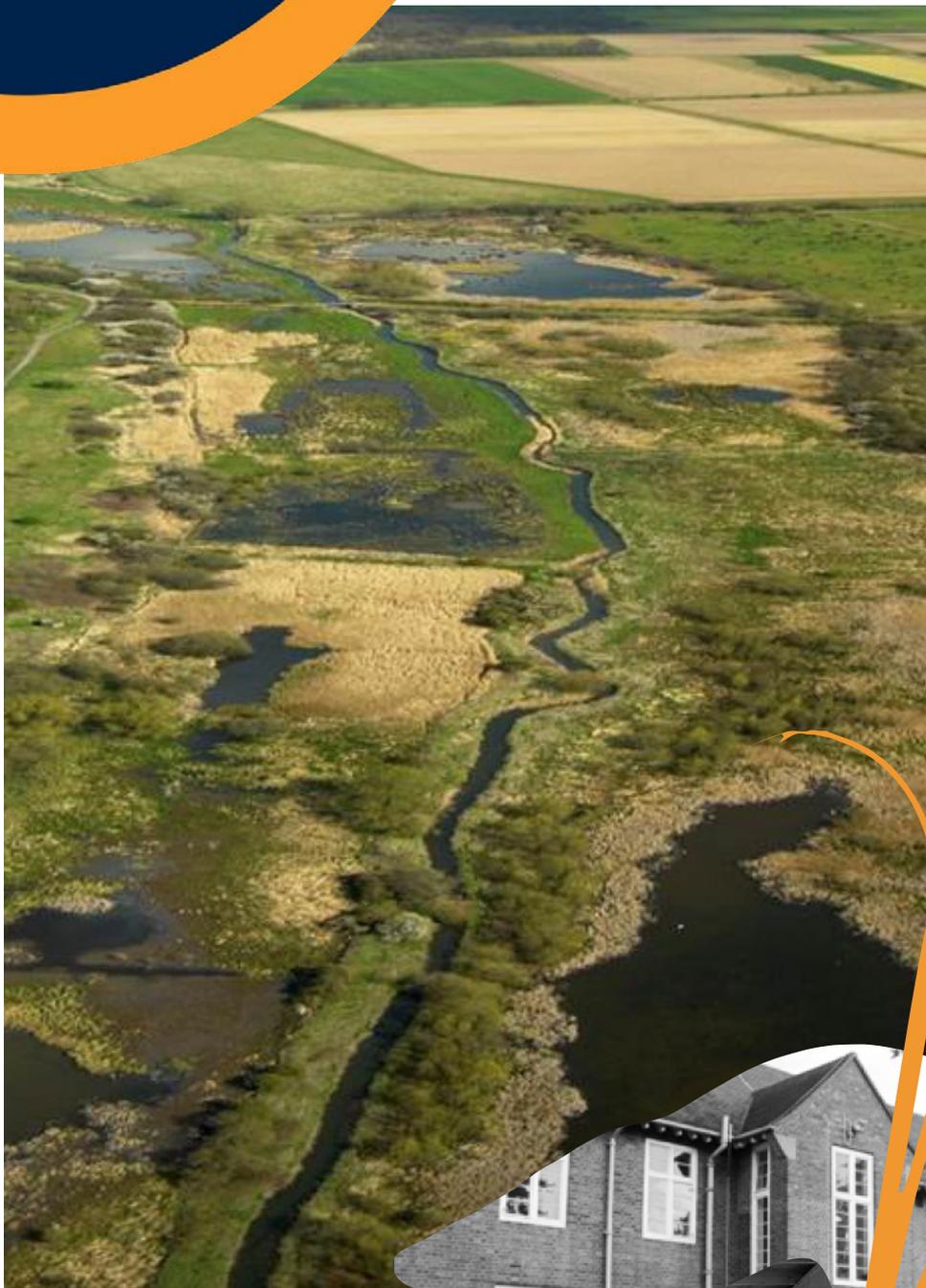
AIRFIELDS, HOSPITALS AND SSSI's

The Contrasts of a Space

The site once known as Sutton's Farm in Hornchurch and the surrounding Ingrebourne Valley has layers of history, leftover monuments of war and rare species of insects and birds amongst other things. We're going to dip into these and create an artwork of connected images which we will use to form a repeating pattern.

First a bit of reading and research.

Key Stage 3, 4 & 5 Activity Pack, St George's Hospital Project
Designs for site hoardings



STUDI ● 3 ARTS

AIRFIELDS

At the outbreak of the First World War in August 1914, the village of Hornchurch was unaware of what an important role it would be playing. Because it was close to the centre of London, only 15 miles away if you are flying in a straight line, Suttons Farm in Hornchurch was chosen by the War Ministry as a perfect location for a landing ground.

The Royal Flying Corps could then help protect the line of attack from German airships along the river Thames and surrounding areas leading into London.

After the First World War ended, the airfield wasn't needed anymore and was closed with some of the airfield buildings being demolished. Not long after, the Royal Flying Corps became the Royal Air Force, and a decision was made to expand their operations which included re-purchasing Suttons Farm with more land to the south of the site.

RAF Suttons Farm opened on the 1st April 1928 and changed its name to RAF Hornchurch 2 months later.

The first unit to take up residency was 111 Squadron with their Armstrong Whitworth Siskin aircraft. The squadron practiced formation flying and spent most of their time preparing routines for the annual Air Pageants at Hendon.

During the 1930's, RAF Hornchurch staged many Empire Air Days, they were annual public air shows which were held at Royal Air Force stations throughout Britain.

They included aerial displays and fly pasts from many different aircraft, along with exhibitions of aircraft and displays of RAF equipment on the ground.

Hornchurch aerodrome managed to break attendance records for every Empire Air Day it took part in, this was solely from the people that paid to go through the gates, thousands more would watch for free, lining the roadside along South End Road with children climbing over the fence to get closer!

By September 1938, RAF Hornchurch was being made ready for war. All personnel were ordered back from leave and the operations room was manned 24 hours a day. When 1939 arrived and World War II began the first event to take place at the aerodrome was the arrival of the new monoplane fighter, the Supermarine Spitfire.

RESEARCH LINKS:

<https://www.rafhornchurch.com>

Interactive map of the airfield
<https://www.google.com/maps>

<http://www.beyondthepoint.co.uk>

<http://www.rafhornchurch.thehumanjourney.net>

EMPIRE AIR DAY	
MAY 28	
AT THE AERODROMES* Watch the flying Inspect the planes	
BIGGIN HILL (R.A.F.) 10.00 a.m. Station BRIMLEY SOUTH (D.K.) thence bus 146 or 410, or by coach D	NORTH WEALD (R.A.F.) 10.00 a.m. Station SNEAR (L.N.E.R.), thence coach 16 or NORTH WEALD (L.N.E.R.), or by bus 539
HALTON (R.A.F.) 1.00 p.m. Station WENSDALE, thence bus 116 (Eastern Herts.); or by coach B to Wensdalen thence bus 116 (Eastern Herts.)	BROOKLANDS 3.00 p.m. Station WINDSOR (S.R.), thence bus 402 or by coach C2
HENDON (R.A.F.) 1.00 p.m. Station COLINDALE, or by coach E, F, L, M, O, or T, or by bus 46, 118 or 462 or by motorbus 643, 644 or 646	HANWORTH 3.00 p.m. Station FELDMAN (L.N.E.R.), thence coach 40 or 401, or by bus 270, or by the
HORNCHURCH (R.A.F.) 1.00 p.m. Station ELTHAM or HORNCHURCH (L.N.E.S.) or by coach T2 to Abbe Cross thence bus 325	HESTON 2.00 p.m. Station HOUNSLOW (C.C.), or by coach 100, or by coach 101
KENLEY (R.A.F.) 1.30 p.m. Station WHITELEAF (S.R.), or by coach 11 or 402, or by bus 75 or 402	HATFIELD 1.30 p.m. Station HATFIELD (S.N.), 148 or 341, or by
NORTHOLT (R.A.F.) 1.00 p.m. Station RUSLIP GARDENS, NORTHOLT JUNCTION (S.W.R.), or RUSLIP RUSLIP PRANDY thence about 1.15	GRAVESEND 2.00 p.m. Station GRAVESEND (S.N.), or by coach 100, or by coach 101

Pill Boxes and Tett Turrets

Fortifications*

Pillboxes were a type of dug-out or concrete bunker with look-outs and small slits for machine guns.



Tett Turrets were made from concrete pipe and designed to allow a man to stand underground protected. A rotating concrete cover would swivel allowing the person inside to operate a mounted machine gun.

During the Second World War, RAF Hornchurch was bombed on 20 occasions.

'E'-shaped concrete pens were also built at RAF Hornchurch which were designed to protect parked fighter planes from nearby bombing explosions. These were called 'fighter-dispersal bays'.

205 enemy planes were destroyed by Hornchurch pilots during the Battle of Britain. Whilst the battle was a British victory, a German breakthrough had been expected and many of the structures remaining at RAF Hornchurch today were installed to defend the airfield from attack on the ground.



** A fortification is a military construction or building designed to defend territories during war.*

HOSPITALS

'In 1936 Essex County Council built a home for the elderly, which was then named Sutton's Institution. It officially opened in September 1938. However, at the outbreak of WWII in September 1939, the buildings were taken over by the Ministry of Defence and used to accommodate airmen from RAF Hornchurch.

The hospital went through various changes of administration finally coming under the control of the North East London Foundation Trust in 1991 but by the end of the 1990's the hospital was under threat of closure.

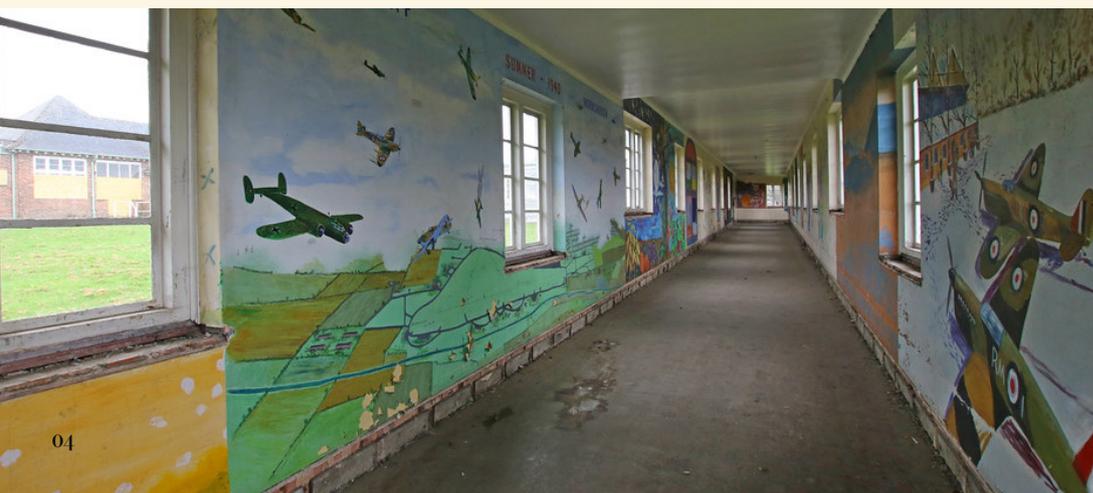
Many changes and campaigns later the discovery of legionella bacteria meant all remaining patients had to be moved elsewhere and the hospital finally closed it's doors in 2012.

The labyrinths of corridors in the old hospital were full of wall art with murals painted by local people and artists. Urban explorers, 28dayslater.co.uk and derelictplaces.co.uk have documented some of this wall art.

More information about the hospital can be found here:

<http://ezitis.myzen.co.uk/stgeorgehornchurch.html>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_George's_Hospital,_Havering





The hospital had some interesting interior features and left over objects which were also photographed including a spiral staircase, theatre and long corridors with trolley beds.



SSSI



The Ingrebourne Valley, in which the Hornchurch Country Park sits, comprises of 261 hectares of connecting habitats, including river, open water, marsh, grassland, reed bed, ancient and secondary woodland, scrub and hedgerows and is home to London's largest remaining continuous freshwater reed bed, designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Local Nature Reserve.

A site of Special Scientific Interest is an area of particular interest to science due to the rare species of fauna or flora it contains or geological or physiological features that may lie in its boundaries.

The site in the Ingrebourne Valley is the largest area of freshwater marsh in Greater London. It's very diverse, with large areas of reed sweet-grass, common reed swamp, wet neutral grassland and tall fen.

There are also two nationally rare Red Data Book species, the hoverfly *Anasimyia interpuncta* and the scarce emerald damselfly *Lestes dryas*.

The Red Data Book founded in 1964 is the world's most comprehensive list of biological species in danger of extinction.



‘Site of Special Scientific Interest’



Research links :

<https://www.essexwt.org.uk/nature-reserves/ingrebourne>

<http://www.thameschase.org.uk/visitor-centres/rainham-hornchurch/hornchurch-country-park>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england>



Repeat Patterns

Time to get creative! Gather your materials together, you will need an A4 piece of paper, a pencil, ruler, scissors and tape, and coloured pencils if you want to add some colour to your pattern. Or you can use crayons, paint, felt tips, oil pastels, ink pens, whatever you have to hand!

Repeat patterns can be created using computer programmes such as illustrator or photoshop but we are going to create a repeat pattern by hand. It's a very simple process and you will end up with a tile-able design, meaning you can add a copy to the top, bottom or sides and it will match.

All you'll need is a piece of A4 paper, a pencil, ruler, some coloured pencils, a pair of scissors and some tape.

So what are we going to draw?

We are going to choose objects and ideas from the history and nature we've been looking at.

What does that mean?

It means looking back at the research above and finding what interests you, what you would like to explore.

Our focus is on the old St George's Hospital, the use of the site as an RAF airfield and the surrounding natural landscape.

You may be interested in the aeroplanes that flew from RAF Hornchurch and the leftover concrete structures from WW2.

Or the old hospital looking at ideas from the old murals or considering the objects

you would have found in the hospital, beds, stethoscopes, oxygen tanks etc.

Maybe the nature reserve with its rare grasses and insects interests you.

You can mix these up or stay with one theme and you can draw as many things as you like, there is just one rule, your artwork must not go off the page! it must stay in the middle.

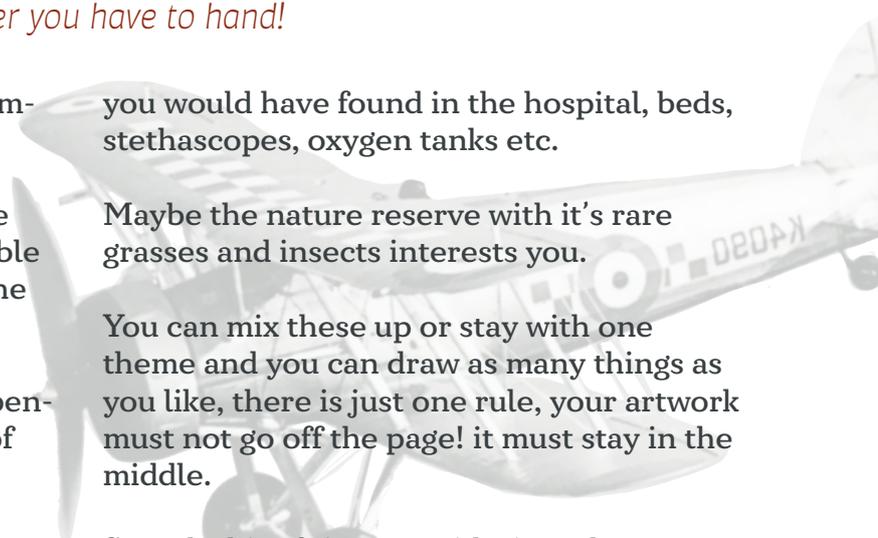
Spend a bit of time considering where to put each drawing on your piece of paper, start in the middle of your paper and work outwards from the centre.

ONE RULE
Stay
inside the
edges of
your paper!

Use a pencil first and then trace over your lines with a pen or felt-tip, and don't forget stay well inside the edges of your piece of paper!

Really think about how each object interacts with the next and the space between them.

NOTE : You can use the photographs provided in this worksheet to draw from but we are expecting you to do a bit of your own research too so check out the links provided and see what you can find!



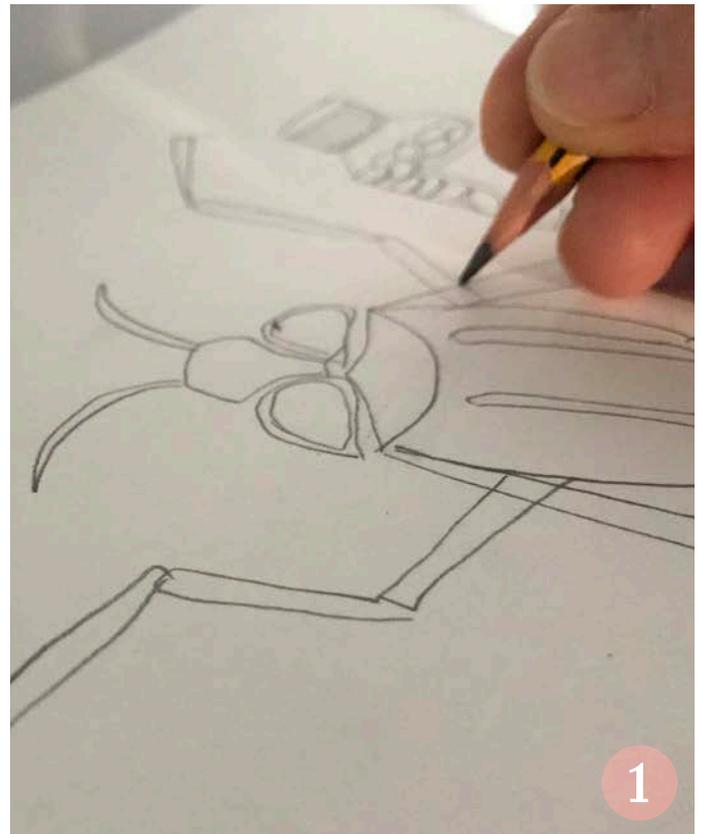
INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1 : DRAW

I've chosen a mixture of elements for my drawing, I've included a giant hover fly, a bottle of medicine, a tall grass, some surgical scissors and a few roundels*.

Don't copy my objects! Look back through the pages here, use the research links and search for your own information too either through books or online.

Consider scale when you're drawing too, you could make a tiny fly huge as I have done, you could do the same with the detail in grasses or miniaturise an aeroplane! Look for interesting patterns inside photographs, the shapes inside corridors, the decoration on aircraft wings, the repeating shapes of nature, so much choice!



STEP 2 : CUT

If you have a mobile phone or camera take a photo of your finished drawing before we move onto this stage, or take a photocopy or scan if you have access to a multi task printer.

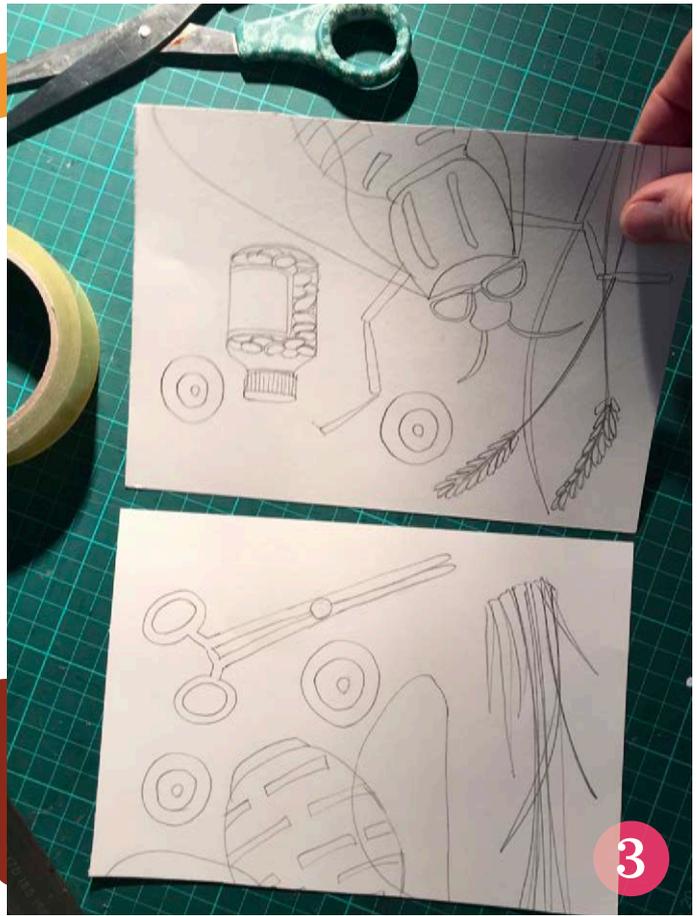
OK now you're going to cut your drawing in half - scary I know! Use your ruler and mark your paper at the half way point with a faint pencil line to follow.

** Roundels were painted on the top and bottom of the wings and on the sides of planes so soldiers on the ground could recognise them. It was an idea from the French and used the colours of a countries flag.*



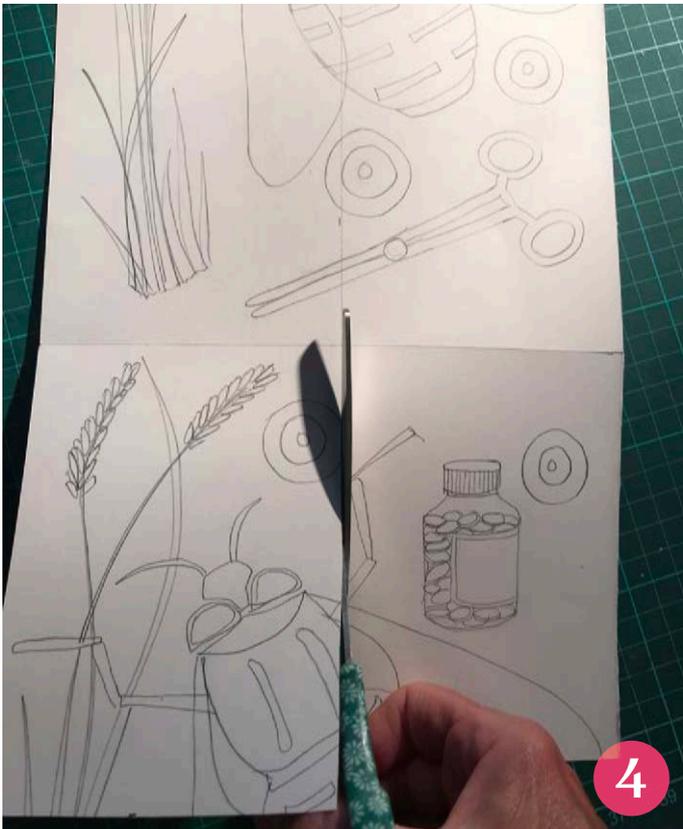
STEP 3 : FLIP AND TAPE

Once you have your two pieces, flip them so the original outer edges touch, back to back. Then, tape your two halves together. Tape on the backside so your drawing stays clean.



STEP 4 : CUT

Cut your paper in half again. Using the same process, cut your paper down the middle lengthwise.



STEP 5 : SWAP AND TAPE

Switch these two pieces of paper without rotating them and tape them together on the reverse side.



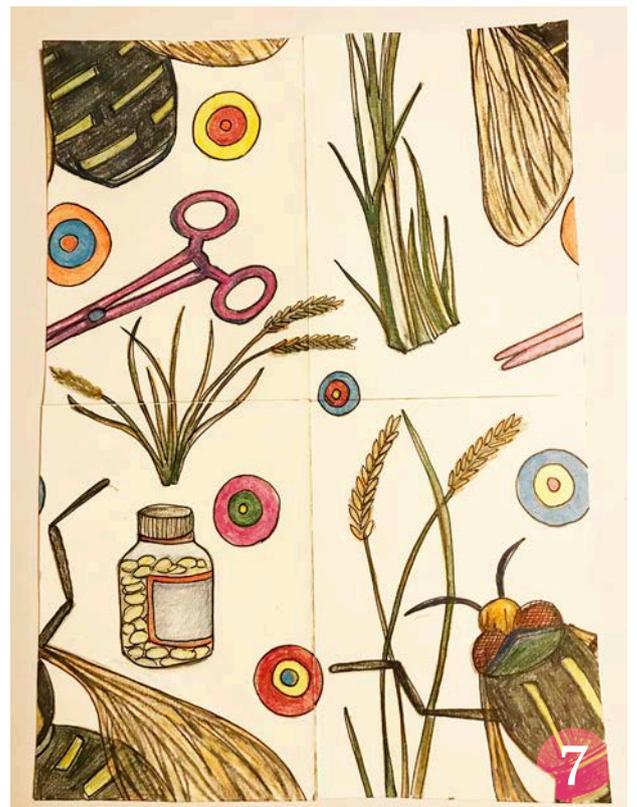
STEP 6: FILLING IN THE GAPS

You will now see that you have bisected your art in both directions and there will be an empty area in the middle of your drawing. You'll need to fill in the blank space! go back to your ideas and sketches and draw back into the centre of the paper filling in the space, but don't worry you don't need to fill every tiny bit of space, think about the design and how it looks and don't overdo it!

STEP 7 : COLOUR

Add some colour to your artwork using coloured pencils, felt tips or even paints. Before you start take a photo of your black and white artwork if you can! TIP : leave the background white for the best results!

OK, you're all done, this is your pattern repeat. If you have access to a printer or photocopier you could try printing a few copies and join them together. On the next page you can see this pattern repeated.





We would like to thank the Hornchurch Aerodrome Historical Trust for their help with this worksheet. The new RAF Hornchurch Heritage Centre is based at 119-121 Suttons Lane and will be used as an education resource for schools and colleges.



We hope you've enjoyed creating your own pattern repeat, and hopefully you've learnt a few new things about Hornchurch too.

Your artwork can be included in the designs being created for the new hoardings across the front of the old St George's Hospital site. All you need to do is take a photo of your work, or a scan if you have a scanner, and email to : hello@studio3arts.org.uk please put ST GEORGE'S HOSPITAL as the subject and take a photo looking down onto your artwork like the picture of the pattern above!

STUDIO 3 ARTS

NHS
Barking and Dagenham,
Havering and Redbridge
Clinical Commissioning Groups



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