

The Bayeux Tapestry

The Bayeux Tapestry gives an account of the Norman invasion of England and the Battle of Hastings in 1066. The tapestry is wool embroidered on linen. It is 70 metres long and 50 centimetres high. No one is exactly sure who made it although most historians agree it was made in England in the 11th century. The Anglo-Saxons were skilled in textile crafts and the Bayeux Tapestry which was made in typical Anglo-Saxon style. Follow these instructions to create your own Bayeux Tapestry-themed artwork.

You will need:

- a long strip of white paper (A2/A3 cut horizontally in half)
- 6 tea bags
- warm water
- container
- paintbrush
- ruler
- pencil
- black pen
- ruler
- colouring equipment (this could be colouring pencils, felt tips or paint)



What to do:

1. Soak the six tea bags in a container of warm water. Take care when handling the warm water (you may need an adult to help you with this).
2. Mix the tea bags in the water so that the water turns brown.
3. Crumple up your piece of paper.
4. Put your piece of paper into the container and use the end of a paintbrush to push it down so that it is completely covered by the water.
5. Leave the paper in the water for one minute.
6. Take the paper out of the water and carefully straighten it out.
7. Then, leave it to dry.

8. Once your paper has dried, turn it landscape.
9. Using a pencil and a ruler, draw a line along the top and bottom of your piece of paper to create borders like on the Bayeux Tapestry here:



10. Use a pencil to draw diagonal lines in the borders, like in the picture.
11. In-between the lines, draw different animals. (The animals in the border of the Bayeux Tapestry come from Aesop's Fables so you could draw a hare and a tortoise, a fox and a crow, a wolf, a goat or a sheep.)
12. In the main section of paper, draw a scene from the Bayeux Tapestry. You could use the picture above or use the Internet to research another section of the tapestry.
13. Below the top border, copy the writing from the section of tapestry you are drawing. (The writing on the Bayeux Tapestry is in Latin. This was the language used for writing when the tapestry was made. Legal documents and even the Bible were in Latin.)
14. Use your chosen colouring equipment to colour in your tapestry.
15. When you have coloured in your design, use a thin black pen to add a bold outline to your drawings.

Extension:

Tapestries are a textile art made using weaving stitches. Why not try drawing part of your design on a piece of fabric and try using different colours and textures of thread to 'colour in' parts of your design?