

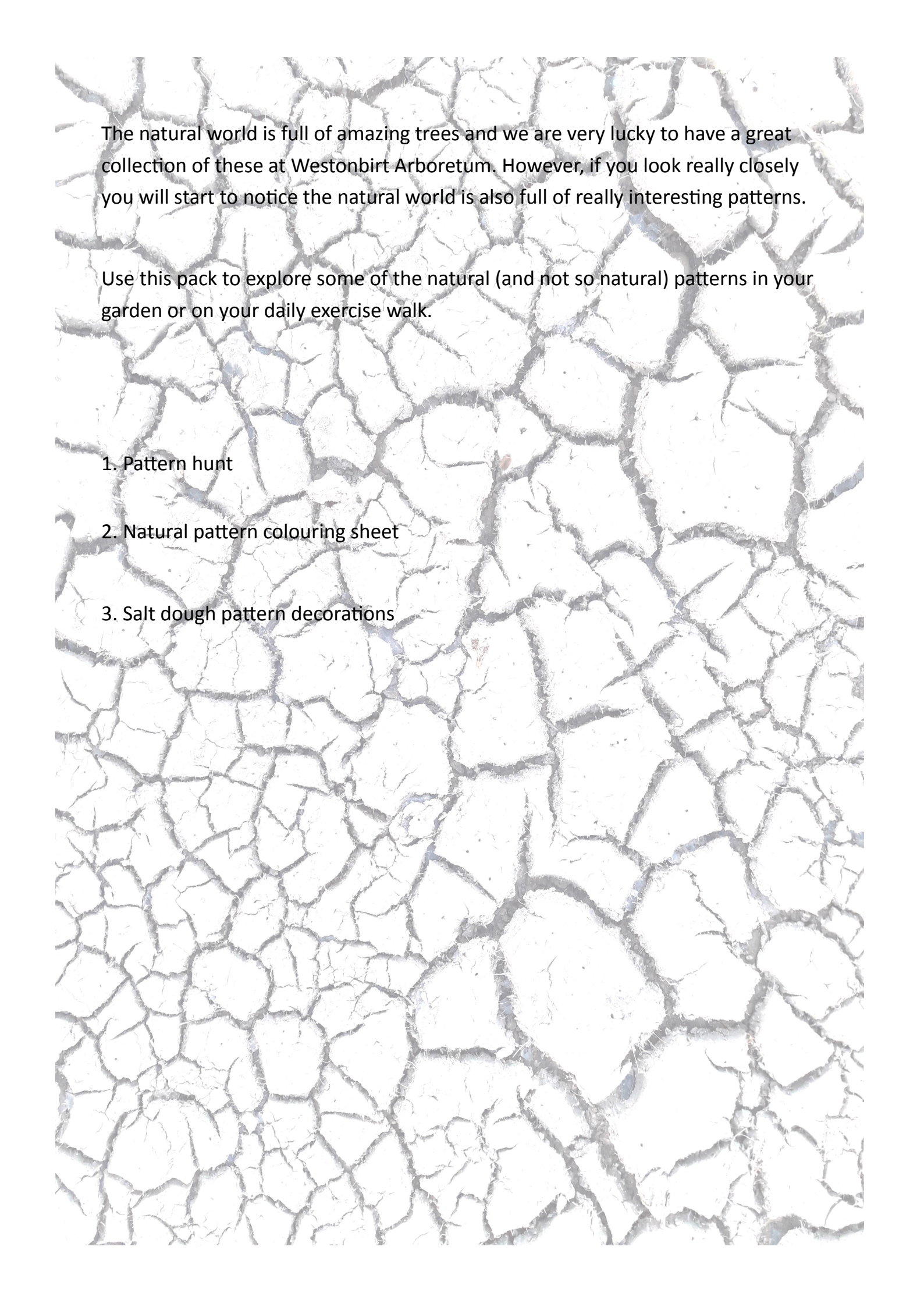
Natural Patterns

Bringing Westonbirt Arboretum to you

A self led activity resource for families



Please Note: it is critical that people follow the government's guidelines on social distancing to protect each other, to slow the spread of the coronavirus and support our NHS.



The natural world is full of amazing trees and we are very lucky to have a great collection of these at Westonbirt Arboretum. However, if you look really closely you will start to notice the natural world is also full of really interesting patterns.

Use this pack to explore some of the natural (and not so natural) patterns in your garden or on your daily exercise walk.

1. Pattern hunt
2. Natural pattern colouring sheet
3. Salt dough pattern decorations

Pattern

Can you spot all the different types of pattern in nature?

Don't worry if you can't—I used some man-made patterns too.



Random



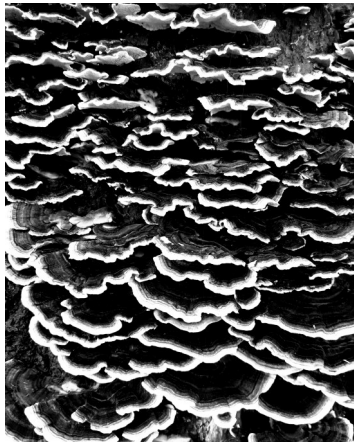
Symmetry



Spiral



Stripes



Wavy Lines



Tessellation



Cracked



Spots & Dots



Circles

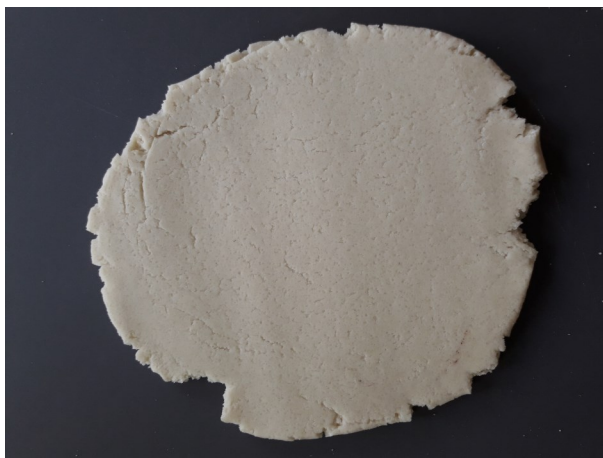
Why not take a photo of all the different patterns you find and make a pattern collage?



Salt Dough Pattern Decorations



For this activity you will need some salt dough (see recipe) or air drying clay, rolling pin, cookie cutter, natural objects with a raised pattern or texture, cocktail stick, yarn, oven or microwave, paint (optional).



Step 1.

Roll out the salt dough to about 5mm thick.



Step 2.

Place the natural object onto the dough and either press down or roll over with the rolling pin to make an imprint in the dough. Cut out a shape with the cookie cutter.



Step 3.

Repeat with each natural object



Step 4.

Use the cocktail stick to make a small hole near the top of each shape.



Step 5.

Bake in either the oven or microwave see instructions below.

Step 6.

Once hard, you can paint the decorations or leave them plain. Thread the yarn through the hole and tie to make a loop. Hang up to display.

Salt Dough Recipe (makes 4 small decorations)

2 table spoons of salt

2 table spoons of water

4 table spoons of flour

Mix the salt and flour together in a bowl and stir in the water adding it slowly. You want the dough to be dry. If it becomes sticky add more flour.

Oven bake

Bake the decorations in the oven preheated to 175°C (350°F) for about 30 minutes or until hard.

Microwave bake (quicker method)

Place the salt dough on a microwaveable plate.

Put in the microwave and heat for 10 seconds

Keep doing 10 seconds at a time until the salt dough is dried.

Because each microwave is different and even your salt dough will be slightly different, microwaving for 10 seconds and checking means that you can avoid over-cooking, which can cause the salt dough to bubble or smoke to fill your kitchen!