



# High Weald Hero Activity Card

## Artists in the High Weald Landscape - A Case study



### Famous Artist who was inspired by the High Weald landscape

George Smart was born in 1774 and died a pauper in Frant, Sussex in 1846.

During these years he served as a soldier, worked as a tailor, was married and raised a daughter. He also created unique artworks that are recognised as hugely important within the idiom of English Folk Art.

Smart's most popular subjects are the characters Old Bright, The Postman and The Goosewoman. These were real people, not inventions - locals he would have seen passing his shop window in Frant everyday - and his backgrounds depict landscape features you can see in the area today.



Smart's fabric collage pictures and standing animal figures were popular souvenirs for early 19th century tourists. A book dedicated to his work was released in 2016 - George Smart the Tailor of Frant - Artist in Cloth and Velvet Figures by by Jonathan Christie.

In 2014 the spotlight finally fell on George Smart when 21 works, by him, appeared in the Folk Art exhibition at Tate Britain, London. His work is also now celebrated in Tunbridge Wells Museum where there is a collection of his work including The Felt-covered Blackbird Model (circa 1840 ). This is an extremely rare surviving example of a 'dummy board' (a flat painting mounted on wood in a realistic style and then cut and shaped to resemble a person, animal or object).



The use of fabrics in art can easily be translated into classroom activities. Children from Speldhurst Primary School ventured out on their Welly Walk and here are some examples of how the landscape combined with George Smart's artist style inspired them. Please see Artworkshop Pack.





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## Artists in the Landscape



### Workshop section B

#### Equipment:

Print off several A3 Maps Aerial and Ordnance Survey, You can find your own mapsets on-line at [www.highweald.org/learn-about/education/high-weald-heroes-partnership](http://www.highweald.org/learn-about/education/high-weald-heroes-partnership), and scissors

**Location:** Classroom activity to combine with artworkshop or as a separate mapping workshop

**Age:** KS2

### Using Maps to show the shape and patterns of the High Weald Landscape:

Show the aerial and OS Maps to the children and ask them to look at the different sorts of field shapes and habitats they can find. Use this information when the children go on their Welly Walk to see if they recognise where any of these shapes might be seen on their walk.



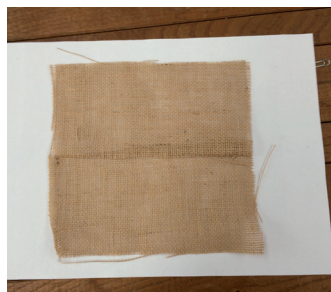
Encourage the children to cut out the shapes and see if they fit any of the different sorts of Field pattern (also can link to Whats in a pattern activity sheet)



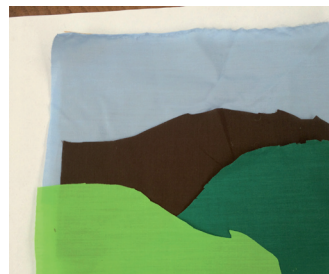


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Stage 1 - we recommend you use canvas as a background to stick the material onto. but cardboard will work to.



Stage 4 - cut out various shapes that mirror the templates and place them in the order of background to foreground.



Stage 2 - the children can use their own designs from the Welly Walk or cut up the shapes from the Aerial Map as templates.



Stage 5 - use lots of glue to secure the shapes to the canvas.



Stage 3 - select material with lots of different textures as well as wool, ribbon or cotton wool.



Stage 6 - Display your High Weald landscape fabric masterpieces.

### High Weald Facts:

#### The story of the High Weald's Fields

The High Weald has a pattern of small, funny-shaped (irregular) fields which were made after the Anglo-Saxon period. Settlers began moving into the High Weald in increasing numbers and these early farmers began clearing the surrounding woods and scrub to make fields for crops and livestock. These clearances were done in an unplanned way by the individual farmers. The different types of field patterns that were created are called assarts.

