



MINDFUL MUSEUMS

CHAINMAIL SHIRT

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CHAINMAIL SHIRT

Art Activity – how do you respond to this object from the collection of Shropshire Museums? Start by watching the Mindful Museum video on the [Chainmail shirt](#).

Think of some words that are prompted by looking at the Chainmail Shirt. Here are some to start with – **metal, links, rusty**

Scratching the surface

A good place to start would be to make a collection of different metal objects, both new and old. A magnifying glass is useful to look at the textures and colours closely. The patterns, textures and colours, particularly of rusted metal, can be both interesting and beautiful. The surface of the iron metal used to make the Chainmail Shirt has changed over the centuries. Once bright, shiny and smooth it is now rusty, rough and dull.

When you are next on a walk, look out for things made of metal like manhole covers, sides of bridges, ironmongery, garden furniture, tools or fences. Have a go at using some sturdy paper and wax crayons to make rubbings of some of those metal things. Only do this if the object is in a safe place and doesn't have sharp edges. You could use wax crayons that are close in colour to the original object or a completely different colour!

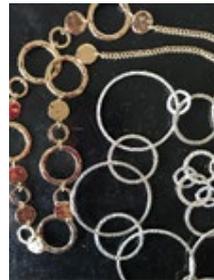
Once you have a selection of rubbings you could cut the paper up into shapes and create a textured collage by arranging the cut pieces on a larger sheet of paper and then gluing them down.

We'd love to see your work.

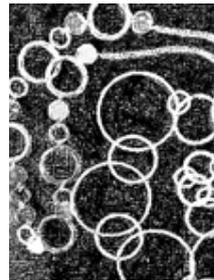
Post your response to our social media channels
#museumsathome
#smagathome



Printing links



The links that make the Chainmail Shirt are the inspiration for your next search for similar patterns and textures.



Having a small sketchbook handy is great for collecting quick or small detailed sketches of objects that have some sort of linkage system or pattern, e.g. necklace chains, fences, architectural metalwork or playground swings.



From your sketches or photographs select an image that you like. You could now make a collograph using a selection of textured and plain cards cut and glued onto a flat surface to create a printing pad. Alternatively, you can use a sheet of Styrofoam with a blunt biro or pencil to incise the pattern.

Place some tracing paper over the image and draw the outlines of the links with a pencil. Turn the tracing paper over and place on some thin card to transfer the drawing. Then cut out the link shapes, glue onto a separate piece of stiff card so that the pattern is raised. If you have printing inks then use those, if not some poster or acrylic paint works too.

Apply the paint over the raised surface of the card and then turn it over to make a print onto another sheet of paper. You could use the printing pad several times with different coloured paints or to change the position of the image.