

# Cyanotype Prints

## Activity Sheet 6 'How to make'

For more educational resources or to book a visit find us at [weset.org](http://weset.org) or follow us @WeSETeducate



### How to make...a Cyanotype 'sun print'

#### ***You will need the following materials:***

- Cyanotype paper** (you can buy this online or in art shops)
- Acrylic/glass sheet** (I use the glass from an old clip frame)
- Cardboard** (a little larger than your Cyanotype paper)
- 4 Bulldog clips or spring clamps**
- Wildflowers or foliage**
- A tray of water** or access to a tap
- A line and pegs** for hanging out to dry
- A paper or card mount** for presentation



Note: Cyanotype paper uses potassium ferricyanide which has low toxicity. It is a mild irritant to the eyes and skin. Be careful when using it and dispose of used water down a mains drain and not on the garden!

#### ***Be careful to keep the cyanotype paper sealed in the dark envelope before exposing it in the sun!***

- Choose a **sunny day** and get everything ready before you set up your print. **Tip:** *UV lamps and torches can also work if there isn't enough sunshine, try experimenting with exposure times on a sample piece of paper first!*
- Take a sheet of Cyanotype paper out of the black envelope and lay it **coloured side up** on the cardboard.
- Arrange your flowers or foliage and place the clear acrylic/glass on top holding it in place with the clips.
- Place in full sun for 5 – 15 minutes or **until the paper you can see has faded to close to white.**
- Rinse the paper in the tray or under the tap until the water runs clear and then **hang out to dry.**

**Experiment** - You can try using other objects to make prints too. These look lovely mounted on blank greetings cards!

**Research** – Where does the name 'Cyanotype' come from?