



## Sunday Afternoon Art

### Walkthrough: Creating your own grotto and poem inspired by Alexander Pope

This activity has been designed by Adam Kammerling with Orleans House Gallery.

#### You will need:

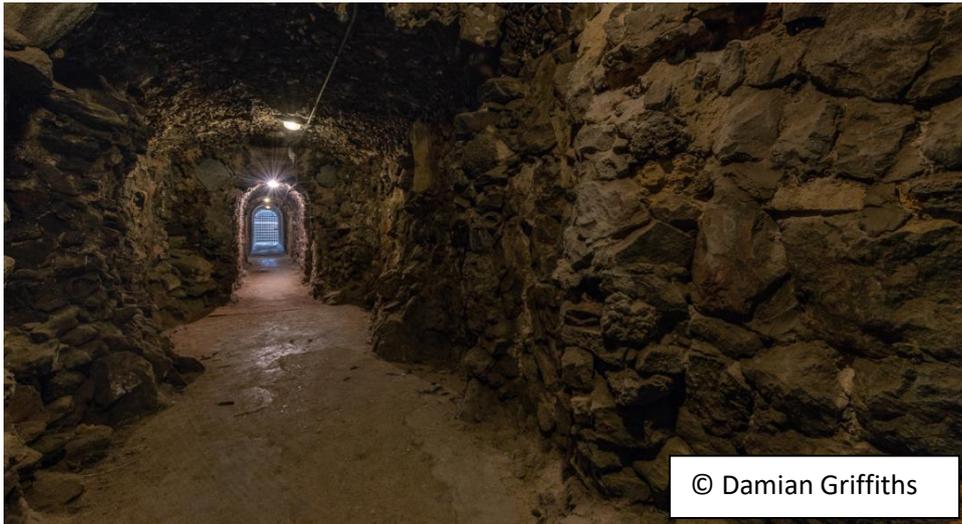
Tape: we have used electric tape, but you can use masking tape or even just string to drape if you don't have tape. Don't use parcel tape as it can leave a sticky residue.

Pen/pencil

Paper: this needs to be small like post-it notes or cut up paper. I cut down a sheet of A4 paper for mine. You may also want to use paper to write down your poem ideas at the end.

Scissors

1. Alexander Pope moved to Twickenham in 1719 (that's about 300 years ago) and built a house along the river Thames. He built a tunnel from his basement under the road Cross Deep to his gardens. In the basement of the house he built a grotto, which grew over time to take up the whole of the basement. The grotto was made up of lots of stones and rocks and other things attached to the walls which came from all over the UK and from other parts of the world.



This is a plan of the basement and shows what Pope's Grotto looked like.

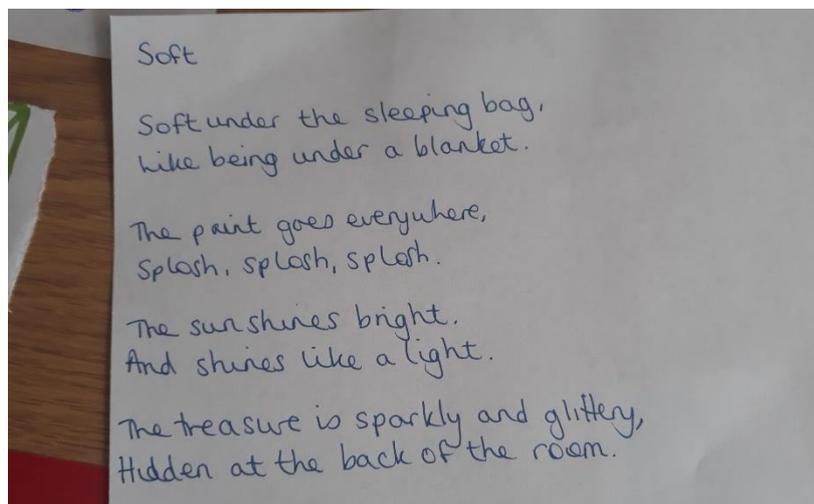




- Alexander Pope was a poet and satirist which means that he criticised humorously. We are now going to create our own poem. Look at the start of his poem 'An Essay on Criticism' here. He uses rhyming couplets.

'Tis hard to say, if greater want of **skill**  
 Appear in writing or in judging **ill**;  
 But, of the two, less dang'rous is th' **offence**  
 To tire our patience, than mislead our **sense**.

- Write a couplet (make it rhyme if you can) for each of the things in your grotto. We wrote 4 couplets, so you don't have to do everything.
- Pick an order for your couplets to create a poem and give it a name. If you can't come up with a name, then just call it 'In the Grotto'. I wrote the poem out for my daughter.



- Share your creations with us at #OrleansHouseGallery. You can find us on Facebook (OrleansHouseGallery), Twitter (@Orleanshg) and Instagram (@orleanshousegallery).
- Visit <https://popesgrotto.org.uk/> to find out more about the wonderful work of the Pope's Grotto Preservation Trust and the grotto. Visit <https://www.orleanshousegallery.org/> for more activities for families.