

The
Fitzwilliam
Museum
CAMBRIDGE

MAKE YOUR OWN PERFUME



In ancient Egypt, some women wore head cones of perfumed fat that melted over the heads in the heat and acted as a sort of ancient, fragranced hair gel.

This activity is inspired by our special exhibition *Scent from Nature*, on display at the Fitzwilliam Museum. For more details, please visit our website fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk

Δ HISTORY OF PERFUME

Perfume has been around since ancient times. The word perfume comes from the Latin *per fumum*, which means 'by means of smoke'. Perfume has played an important role in everyday life, from masking unpleasant smells and soothing the skin, to anointing the dead. It is used today to express a mood or personality.

YOU WILL NEED:

- a bottle
 - water
 - a funnel (can make one from paper)
 - Something to mash with
 - homemade labels and a pen/ pencil
 - citrus fruit such as chopped lemon or orange
 - flowers and herbs.
- We recommend:**
- Roses
 - Lavender
 - Jasmine
 - Mint
 - Rosemary
1. Push your chopped citrus into the bottle. Pour enough water to cover the fruit.
 2. Mash the flowers and herbs to help release more oils, then add them through a funnel into the bottle.
 3. Top up the rest of the bottle with water, close the lid and set aside to soak up the scents overnight.
 4. Make a label for the bottle, listing ingredients and give your perfume a name
 5. Open the lid and test the scent.
 6. Try different combinations to find your favourite scent.

