Fun with ink: Creating beasties with experimental drawing tools

Materials: White and black paper. Glue stick, scissors, marker pens, crayons.
Black ink (Indian ink is best, but any non-toxic black ink or paint works).
Different drawing tools - your imagination is the limit! For example toothbrush, dish brush, cotton buds, sponges, kitchen utensils, sticks, pine cones, bits of cardboard, straws, cocktails sticks, combs, coasters, corks, wooden blocks
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1. Hunt for materials
Have a look around the house and outside for interesting objects which could be used for drawing and making marks with. Raid the cleaning cupboard, the toolbox, the garden shed.

2. Experimenting with mark-making
It's best to cover the table you are using and not wear your best clothes for this. You are going to make a lot of mess! Try out your new, unusual drawing tools to find out what kind of marks they make. The aim is to try as many different ways of drawing with each tool as possible. Try stamping, drawing, rubbing, rolling. Don't spare paper! For really black marks, use the ink undiluted. You can also experiment with different shades of grey by mixing the ink with a bit of water.
If you want to skip this messy part, you can print and use some of the ink blots attached.

3. Now is the time for discovery. Aren't the ink marks beautiful? When you look at them, do you start to see shapes, forms and patterns that remind you of something familiar? Does that one ink blot look like a camel? Are those tiger stripes? What if you added antlers to that one? Your imagination is the limit. By adding details (like heads, tails, ears, legs, tentacles..) you will bring the ink marks to life. You can use a marker pen, or crayons to draw the details. You can also use black paper and scissors and a glue stick to cut details to add to the characters. If you have a paper punch, you can use that to create perfect circles for eyes to glue on.
I hope you have fun with creating curious characters!

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