

REACHING OUT

We want to reach out!

As schools return, we look to support each school's efforts to get involved with the rich tapestry of culture and creativity within the borough. Tameside Cultural Services have been looking at how we can best use our years of experience and resources to support schools. We will link in with the Philosophy for Children, as well as the National Curriculum, the schools' recovery curriculum and the Five Ways to Wellbeing: Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning and Give.

Each month, we will share information relating to our education offer as well as giving further ideas and ways to engage with our offer in your classroom. There will be activities from each of the Cultural Services teams and we will take the opportunity to highlight one of our site based workshops as when we are able to, we cannot wait to welcome you back to our sites and great outdoors.



IRON AGE SETTLEMENTS

Taking inspiration from Iron Age hill forts and roundhouses, this fun, outdoor based session is a chance for your class to have a go at some Iron Age themed activities. In teams they could have a go at forming a mini round house and then applying daub. They can then make an iron age axe and in the afternoon have a flint and steel fire starting demonstration, before they all have a try at creating sparks with fire steels.

culture
Tameside



DESIGNING DENS & SHELTERS



In this fun, hands-on activity, children use team work, communication skills and lots of creativity to build mini-shelters from natural materials.

This activity can be used to compliment your Stone Age -Iron Age topic or can be used to enable pupils to reflect on how the physical environment influences land use including the types of settlements that people occupy. Shelters can be whatever size suits your outdoor space.

Objectives

This lesson enables pupils to:

- work in teams to create, present and peer review mini-dens
- practise teamwork, cooperation and communication skills
- enjoy being and working outside

The challenge:

you could give all teams the same challenge eg: if they are making mini shelters, each team has 2 toy dolls and the instructions.

“Your challenge is to construct a shelter for the doll family out of the materials you find in school grounds “

Alternatively you could give each team a different challenge / scenario eg:

- A) *You live in a hot, dry country, you need shelter from the sun and there are hardly any trees.***
- B) *You live in the cold north and winters are freezing. You need a heavy roof to keep snow out, somewhere for your animals to shelter and warmth.***
- C) *you live in a tropical jungle that floods each summer and need protection from water snakes.***
- D) *You could link to Stone Age topic:***

Set the scene : A typical stone age family moved around setting up camps in good places where food could be found nearby.

You need to construct a shelter for a Stone Age person from the materials you have around you and could be constructed with the tools that were available then.

Resources

This will vary, depending on where you are planning on doing the activity and how big you are building the shelters .

Natural material such as twigs, stones and leaves found in school grounds.

Earth materials such as clay or mud (optional).

String/ twine.

Toy figures eg: Barbie dolls/ action man etc.



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Things to think about / group discussion

Show the children a good location in your school grounds for building a mini-shelter, then demonstrate how and where to forage for good natural material. Emphasise to the children, if building small shelters, to remember the size of their toy figures if they have any. Maybe show them a shelter you made earlier and ask for feedback about your creation.

Find a good construction spot

The best places are ones that are naturally sheltered from wind, rain and other potential weather problems. In amongst tree roots, at the base of a hedge or against a large rock are examples of great shelter spots. Ask teams to spend some time finding a good spot .

Forage for loose natural material such as leaves and twigs (not whole plants)

You should be able to find wonderful natural materials in school grounds. These may include twigs, or pieces of bark. Leaves, rocks and pebbles can strengthen a shelter against bad weather. Foraging outdoors offers endless possibilities.

Here is a good time to remind pupils about not pulling branches off trees or pulling up whole plants . Remind them they never know whose home they might be destroying.

Start building

Think about what all homes need. Walls, an entrance, a roof, a chimney, fire, a sleeping area and a toilet.

Remind teams of the time they have. Once they have finished constructing a basic den they can adding furniture.

Ask pupils to consider the following

- How big does the shelter need to be?
- How will it cope in rain, wind and snow?
- Where will water and food come from?

Plenary

Grand designs: : Ask each group to give the group a 'tour' of their shelter - location, materials, design and any other special features. Get feedback from the other teams.

Follow up in class.

Create an estate agents brochure for the shelter.

Try some natural paint and create cave art.



Make nature paintbrushes from twigs and leaves.



For more information or to discuss please email:

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