

Construction Lesson with 3rd to 6th Classes

'Transport'

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Curriculum Strand: Construction (Visual Arts Curriculum p.56, 74)

Objective: *Explore and experiment with the properties and characteristics of materials in making structures (p.56, 74)*
Make imaginative structures (p.56, 74)

Linkage: **Drawing** > *Express his/her imaginative life and interpret imaginative themes using inventive pattern and detail (p.48)*
Draw imaginative themes using inventive pattern and detail (p.66)

Integration Possibilities:

Science: Observe how objects may be moved (p.65)

Identify and explore how objects and materials may be moved (p.87)

Oral Language: Present ideas that are relevant to the subject in a logical sequence (p.38)

Explore the possibilities of language and sentence structure in expressing increasingly complex thoughts (p.50)

History: Study aspects of social, artistic, technological and scientific developments over long periods (p.50, 71)

Identify items/examples of change and continuity in the 'line of development' (p.50, 71)

Developing this Activity in Class:

You will need to discuss the idea/stimulus for this lesson with your class about a week or so in advance to give them time to gather up the waste materials required. They can also decide if they wish to work in pairs or larger groups or if there are some children who prefer to work on their own. You will have card, PVA, masking tape, sellotape, scissors, paints and brushes in the classroom, but stress to the children it is up to themselves to provide the waste materials. They will be very inventive in what they can scavenge once they know they are working to their own designs!

Materials Needed: Waste materials found at home, such as

- Boxes/containers of different sizes and shapes
- Cartons, plastic bottles, broken toys, wheels, etc
- String, old wire, nuts, bolts, etc

Scissors
PVA
Masking tape/sellotape
Poster paints
Brushes

Stimulus: Have a brainstorming session with your class about all the forms of transport we have available to us now. Think about travel by land, sea and air. Make a list of all these on the blackboard/flipchart. You could have a list from roller skates to space rockets!

"We can now travel faster than ever before and get to all areas of the globe with relative ease. Choose a form of transport from land, sea or air that appeals to you and design a new version of it. Think about your design and the materials you will need to make it because you are going to source these materials at home! Make a drawing of your new mode of transport keeping in mind how you are going to construct it and the materials you will need. If you are working in groups, agree on the design in general, smaller details can be changed as you go along."

Activity: The children construct their mode of transport. Their ideas might change as they work, difficulties will arise and they will find ways to overcome them. Encourage them to discuss what they are doing and to consult each other along the way. The models can be painted as the children wish when they are finished. Display the children's work in the classroom or other suitable place in the school.

Evaluation/Looking and Responding: This will be happening as the children work. Encourage them to talk about their constructions, where they might have had any difficulties and how they overcame them. Give them time to show their work to the class and to question each other about what they have done.

Extension Activities: The children could make individual drawings of an imaginative mode of transport adding inventive detail.

ICT Possibilities: Photograph the children's work and scan it into the computer. They could write a description of what they have done, explaining the process from start to finish.

Using the I Am An Artist DVD: The *Construction* programmes on the DVD offer opportunities to see children making constructions using card and other materials.

Note: Allow the children to design and make their own constructions. If they are asked to follow instructions to make something designed by an adult it can lead to frustration for them and for you. They will be very inventive in their ideas and gather up lots of scrap materials themselves.

Relevant Artists:

Relevant Websites: Visit London's Transport Museum
<http://www.ltmuseum.co.uk/collections/collections/vehicles.shtml>

Visit Coventry's Transport Museum
<http://www.transport-museum.com/collection.aspx>

Visit NASA's website and learn about space shuttles
http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/shuttle/vehicle/index.html

Scoilnet, which is a portal to lots of sites useful in the classroom
<http://www.scoilnet.ie>