

Construction Lesson with 5th to 6th Classes

Diorama: 'My Ideal Bedroom'

Gemma Mc Girr

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

Objective: *Explore and experiment with the properties and characteristics of materials in making structures (p. 74)*
Make imaginative structures (p. 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: Investigate current electricity by constructing simple circuits (p.86)

Identify ways in which homes and buildings are heated (p.89)

Appreciate the application of science and technology in familiar contexts (p.91)

Oral Language: Discuss ideas and concepts encountered in other areas of the curriculum (p.53)

History: Life, society, work and culture in the past: Become familiar with aspects of the lives of these people (p.68)

Geography: Become aware of the importance of the Earth's renewable and non-renewable resources Foster an appreciation of the ways in which people use the Earth's resources (p.83)

Developing this Activity in Class:

Getting Started: *A diorama is like a stage setting or room in a box. If you turn a shoe box on its side you have the ideal setting for this lesson.*

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, lollipop/matchsticks, construction straws, 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:

- Shoe box or similar per child or group
- Boxes/containers of different sizes and shapes
- Scraps of fabric
- String, old wire, nuts, bolts, empty spools (for thread), etc.

Lollipop/matchsticks

Construction straws

Scissors

PVA

Masking tape/sellotape

Poster paints

Brushes

Stimulus:

"If you had the opportunity to change your bedroom to your own design, money no object, what would you do? Would you change the size or shape of the room? What changes would you make to the furniture and fittings? What would you like on the walls, floors and windows? Let your imagination go wild and imagine all the things you would like to put into your own personal, private room. Think about comfort, technology, design

and function. Think about the space and how you are going to make the best use of it?

This design is going into a shoe box, what materials can you collect to construct all the items you want to put into the room? If you are working in groups, decide on the materials you will need and who is going to gather them up."

Activity:

The children construct their ideal bedrooms. Their ideas will probably change as they work, difficulties will arise and they will find ways to overcome them. Encourage them to discuss what they are doing, to experiment with the materials, to view their constructions from all angles and to consult each other along the way. 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 ideas, where they might have had any difficulties with their constructions 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 dioramas of scenes from favourite stories, poems, films or games.

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 dioramas.

Note:

Children love this activity as it gives them an opportunity to let their creative juices flow. Be prepared for some really interesting ideas and constructions – one child I worked with put a helipad on the roof of his dream bedroom!

Relevant Artists:

Relevant Websites:

Visit the Museum of Arts and Design and see some contemporary designs and constructions.

http://www.madmuseum.org/site/c.drKL1PllqE/b.1107981/k.781C/Archived_Exhibitions.htm

Visit the Denver Art Museum and view some modern designs

http://www.denverartmuseum.org/explore_art/collections/collectionTypeId--30

Interior Design Guide to National and International Designs, this site is a portal to lots of Museums

<http://www.dezignare.com/museum.html>

Scoilnet, which is a portal to lots of sites useful in the classroom

<http://www.scoilnet.ie>