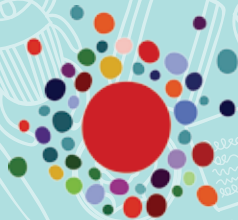


Creative Arts in the Classroom

Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead
Museum Learning Project



artswork



ARTSMARK



About the Project

In 2014 six museums in the Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead area embarked on an exciting new project, supported by investment from Artsworld, the South East Bridge, which aimed to enhance museum learning and engagement in schools through innovative and creative activities.

The museums in the Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead Museum Learning Project consortium are Eton College Museum Collections, Maidenhead Heritage Centre, River & Rowing Museum, Slough Museum, Stanley Spencer Gallery and Windsor and Royal Borough Museum.

These museums partnered with eight local schools to build partnerships through a creative project based on objects in the museums' collections.

Students experienced a range of creative activities through the project including drama, dance, visual arts and music and all the students gained the Arts Award. This booklet has been created to support any schools and community groups to draw inspiration from museum objects and to show how objects can be used as a stimulus for many different creative activities.

A big thank you to all the museums in the consortium, 4motion Dance Theatre Company and all the staff and students from All Saints CE Junior School, Cookham Dean CE School, Islamic Shakhshiyah Foundation, Khalsa Academy, Larchfield Primary, Parlaunt Park, Riverside Primary and Wraysbury Primary.

Using Objects to Learn about the Past

Objects, Photographs and Artworks are what museums and galleries are all about! Learning from objects is a great way of learning about the past. Objects can tell us a lot about what the people who made and used them were like and they can also show us how things have changed, or stayed the same, over time.

Object based learning can encourage people to learn using all their senses - especially touch, sight and smell. As well as being a rich source of information, using objects in learning can also help people to develop a range of skills such as investigation and questioning skills.

Case Study: Year 4 Larchfield Primary School

A Year 4 class from Larchfield Primary School found that exploring Ancient Egypt through museum objects made the topic even more exciting.

Museum staff brought a selection of objects into the classroom including mummified hands, scarab beetles, amulets, surrogate mummies and canopic jars. There was even a piece of bread from Egyptian times!

After being inspired by their 'tour through a tomb' and learning about Ancient Egyptian burial rituals the students at Larchfield Primary school set about making and decorating an Egyptian Death Mask.



"It was good to see old objects because we never saw that, it was something new for us, it was special."

Animating Objects

Animation is a great way of bringing objects to life and is simpler than it may seem at first. Give objects eyes (either with cut out paper or through simple computer-generated imagery), make them talk by adding sound effects and oral histories, and you have a simple action story.

Creating a 'claymation' film with children is also an engaging way to learn about a topic. With a tablet or laptop computer, a basic webcam and software (such as iMotion, iStopMotion and Monkeyjam), students can create a short film that looks impressive and develops their creativity.



"I learnt that in the war there was a hospital in Cookham Dean. We made a model hospital for our animation, it was really cool!"

Case Study: Year 3 Cookham Dean C of E School

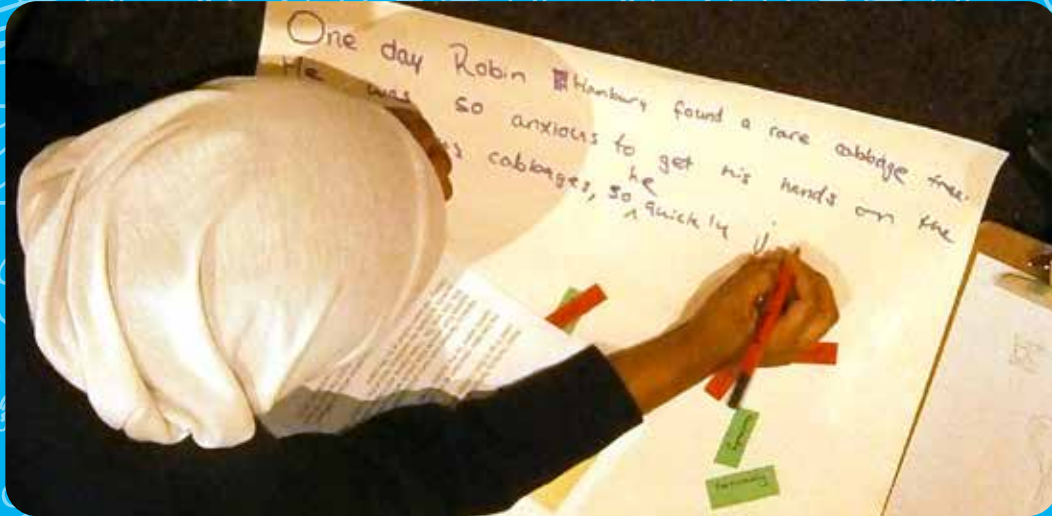
A Year 3 class from Cookham Dean Church of England School explored Maidenhead Heritage Centre's collection to investigate the Home Front during World War One. After researching the collection, which included photographs, letters, diaries and war medals, they set about creating a short animated film.

The students created profiles of two characters: a nurse from a convalescent home and a soldier who had returned from the front after being injured. The students then wrote a storyboard and designed two sets and a cast of clay characters.

Using simple animation software on a laptop computer and a webcam the students then worked in small groups to film different scenes using the clay models. They incorporated some of Maidenhead Heritage Centre's collection in the film and even animated the movement of a set of war medals!

Sounding the Past

Museum objects can be used to inspire music and soundscapes. With paintings and photographs you could try imagining what noises were happening in that scene and bring them to life. Similarly, you could use objects from different countries as a starting point for exploring music from across the world or you could use objects to inspire a sound story.



"I enjoyed looking at the objects and making the story and creating music!"

Case Study: Year 5 Riverside Primary School

Inspired by the Robin Hanbury-Tenison Ethnographic Collection at Eton College Natural History Museum, a Year 5 class from Riverside Primary School created a sound story as part of a four week project.

They began by looking at the musical instruments which were made and used by tribes in the Amazon. Students investigated the materials used to make the instruments and discovered they were widely available in the rainforest environment. The class then made instruments using everyday objects from their own environment, including shakers from toilet roll tubes and drums from paint tins! After making their instruments, they came up with a simple rhythm and recorded it.

Then the students worked in smaller groups to write a story which was limited to no more than 10 lines but had to include a museum object. The main character in the story had to be Robin Hanbury-Tenison, the explorer who gave the object to the museum. The students added sounds and movements to their story and performed it with the rhythm they recorded as the backing track.

Curious Curators

Organising an exhibition helps students to explore a topic as well as learning and developing new skills. By finding out about the objects that will be put into an exhibition students will develop independent research skills. Writing object labels requires the skill to summarise the information and write in a clear and concise way. Students can also use their art and IT skills to create posters for their exhibition.

Case Study: Year 3 Islamic Shakhsiyah Foundation

Islamic Shakhsiyah Foundation Year 3 worked with Windsor Museum to curate an exhibition of their own wonderful clay models which they made in response to objects in the Museum's collection.

The group researched their objects and learned how to write museum labels and interpretation. Then they wrote label cards explaining what object their model was based on, how they made it, and why they chose to make it.

The students learned about positioning the objects in a case using Perspex lifts and stands, and had to ensure that the labels were clear for everybody to read.

They came up with a name for their exhibition, deciding upon 'Museum of Clay.' Everybody made a poster for the exhibition to try and encourage their friends and family to visit the Museum to see their wonderful work on display.



"I learnt what a curator is and what they do"

Drama and movement

Objects, and the potential stories that they can tell, are an inspiring starting point for drama and movement activities.

Here are a few ideas:

'Mystery Suitcase' is a role-playing game where the facilitator can invent a situation which has led them to have in their possession a suitcase full of mystery objects. The facilitator then asks the students for their help to solve the mystery of who the suitcase belonged to.

Divide the students into smaller groups. Cut up an image of a painting and give each group a section. Then ask the groups to create a freeze-frame or a movement based on that section.

For longer term projects objects can be used as the inspiration for developing a narrative for a dance or drama performance.

***"I liked acting out sitting in the Trireme.
It felt like I was a real soldier, fighting in
Ancient Greece"***

Case Study: Year 4 All Saints C of E School

A Year 4 class from All Saints Church of England Primary School in Maidenhead took part in a 4 week project focusing on the Olympics of Ancient Greece. Using objects from collections at the River & Rowing Museum and Slough Museum, they began by exploring the modern day Olympics, prior to researching the games held in the time of the Ancient Greeks. After a visit to the River & Rowing Museum the class created a 'Live from the Ancient Olympics!' drama performance which included rowing on a Greek trireme, the calling of the sacred truce, carrying the Olympic flame and chariot racing.



Objects inspiring artwork

Museum objects can be used to inspire a range of art projects while paintings themselves provide an excellent introduction to research into artists and art techniques. Museums often contain unusual and wonderful objects which will inspire creativity in teachers and students. You can use objects to look closely at materials, designs, patterns and symbols or you can ask students to create their own artistic responses to objects.

Case Study: Year 1 Wraysbury Primary School

Wraysbury Primary Year 1 students visited Herschel Park in Slough as part of their 'How does your garden grow?' topic. They learnt about the Victorian features of the Park, which used to be a private garden for surrounding residents in Victorian times. After exploring different art techniques, such as collage, papier-mâché and photography, they created a collaborative piece of artwork inspired by the Park.



"I liked making the big flower because we worked as a team, when you work as a team it's quite cool"

Learning through Paintings

Learning about artists and paintings can deepen student's knowledge, understanding and enjoyment of art. It can also improve observation skills, inspire their own creativity, and help them learn about artistic movements and history of a particular period.

You can try the following games next time you are in an art gallery:

'Jump into the frame' - Choose a painting and imagine you have jumped into the scene. What is happening? What can you see and hear? What can you smell?

Take a mental photo - Look at a chosen painting for 10 seconds then turn away and see what you can remember about it. Try describing it to someone else and see if they can figure out which painting you were looking at.

"I didn't know anything about Stanley Spencer I didn't even know he existed so I found out he existed and about his life"

Case Study: Year 7 Khalsa Academy

Khalsa Academy Year 7 students worked with Stanley Spencer Gallery on a project about self-portraits and identity. They visited the gallery and investigated Spencer's self-portraits and other paintings to see how he represented his identity through his artwork. The class thought about their own identity and what was important to them and created a collage of images that represented them, before experimenting with portrait photography and incorporating these ideas into a final self portrait artwork.



Exploring Cultures

Museum objects and art can inspire the imagination and spark the curiosity of students as they learn about cultures other than their own. Objects are a useful tool to compare and highlight similarities between different cultural and religious traditions, festivals and practices and to help students look at things from a different perspective.

Case Study: Gifted and Talented Students Parlaunt Park Primary Academy

Gifted and Talented art students from Parlaunt Park Primary Academy worked with Slough Museum to create artworks inspired by the Museum's collection. The project was all about the different cultures and communities who live in Slough. Through exploring objects, such as Diwali cards, Polish Pisanki Easter Eggs and Indian wedding jewellery, the group learned about different art forms from different cultures. After exploring rangoli patterns, mendhi and decorating their own Easter Eggs, they took inspiration from all the activities to create a colourful and unique patchwork quilt.



"I learnt about two different cultures and what they celebrate"

Eton College Natural History Museum

The museum was opened in 1875 to house the Thackeray Collection of British Birds and other collections and has been located in its present site since 1895. Over 16,000 objects donated from the 19th Century onwards are displayed over the two floors of the museum. You can see a replica of Joseph Banks' cabin and displays of the Endeavour voyage. Also on display is a rare sheet of Darwin's original manuscript for the Origin of the Species. The latest addition is an ethnographic collection of tribal objects donated by renowned explorer Robin Hanbury-Tenison.

Go on expedition with one of the greatest British explorers of the twentieth century. See the collection of objects from previously uncontacted rainforest tribes from both Amazonia and in Borneo. View the famous whistling arrows of the Suyu people, marvel at the blowpipe from Borneo which fired poison-tipped darts, listen to nose flutes from the Nambiquara people and admire exquisite jewellery from around the world.

Examples of Sessions: The museum can offer bespoke and tailored workshops for schools. Please contact the curator to enquire.

Age Range: Key Stage 1 and above

Cost: Free

Contact: etonnhm@etoncollege.org.uk
01753 671288



"I was surprised by many things in the museum like that some things like high heels, bags and that sort of thing are made of snake skin"

Maidenhead Heritage Centre

The history of Maidenhead stretches from the Romans to racing cars, encompassing a Victorian boom town built around Brunel's Great Western Railway and the wartime headquarters of the Air Transport Auxiliary, whose amateur pilots flew spitfires to the front line. At Maidenhead Heritage Centre schools can explore the town's varied and exciting place in history through our evolving "Story of Maidenhead" gallery, now home to a Roman skeleton, as well as through a series of temporary exhibitions throughout the year.

Maidenhead Heritage Centre offers a range of school sessions at the museum exploring Maidenhead's local history and bringing the curriculum to life.

- Roman Maidenhead: Cox Green Roman Villa, Skeletons and Archaeology, Object Handling, Costumes and Role-play.

- Victorian Transport: Stagecoaches and Highwaymen, Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Building Bridges, the Railways.

- WWI: "Maidenhead in the Great War" exhibition (from September 2014), Life at the Homefront, Object handling: Trench art, Medals, Convalescent Homes, and Remembrance.

- WWII: Evacuation, Rationing, Blackout, Interviews, Object Handling, D-Day, and Battle of Britain PLUS: discover local hero Sir Nicholas Winton "the British Schindler".

- Wartime Aviation: Air Transport Auxiliary Exhibition – Spitfire Simulator, Object Handling, Costumes and Role-play.

- 20th Century Maidenhead: Maidenhead and the Thames, High Street, Trade and Industry, Maps and More!

Costs: Ranges between £3 - £4.50 per student

Age Range: Key Stage 1 – Key Stage 3

The Heritage Centre also has a range of handling objects, maps, documents, photographs and aerial photographs that can be accessed at the museum or loaned out to schools.

For more information please call 01628 780 555 and ask for Virginia Jenner, Education Officer or get in touch directly at education@maidenheadheritage.org.uk



"Inventive and creative rotation of activities supported by knowledgeable tutors - the children have learnt lots and have been engaged throughout." – Year 3 Teacher

River & Rowing Museum

The River & Rowing Museum, in its beautiful riverside setting, offers schools a unique opportunity to combine an investigation of real objects from its collections with exploration and inspiration from the natural world and practical experiments or creative activities in the Education Centre.

Workshops cover a range of subjects including Geography, Science, Art & Design, History and English.

For example:

Understanding Rivers (KS2): Practical experiments and a river walk to explore the natural and managed river

Print me a River (KS1 & KS2): Create beautiful paintings or screen prints inspired by the Thames

Boat Trail (KS1): Discover boats in and outside the Museum and make a mini boat

The River of Life (KS1 & KS2): Living Things – identify and group plants and animals and investigate their suitability for their habitat in a river environment

Toad & Friends (Foundation Stage): Creative arts, music and dance

Costs: Tutored workshop £5.25 (+VAT) per child. Self-led visits £3 (+VAT) per child

Age range: Early Years Foundation Stage to A level
A range of River and Rowing Museum's schools resources are available online at www.rrm.co.uk/schools.

For more information contact:

edbookings@rrm.co.uk or 01491 415605



“The visit inspired the children to be creative and to learn in a lively, fun way” Year 5 teacher

Slough Museum

Slough Museum is an independent museum with a unique collection of over 6,000 objects and 5,000 photographs that tell the fascinating history of Slough.

Slough Museum is also the education partner for Herschel Park, a unique park, easily accessible in the centre of Slough. Consisting of the recently restored Victorian Pleasure Gardens and a newly created Nature Reserve, it has a rich history and amazing wildlife and plants to explore.

The Museum works with schools to create bespoke workshops. Please contact the museum for more information.

The museum also has a range of loan boxes that schools can hire and a number of other resources that are available to download from the museum's website:

<http://sloughmuseum.org/play-learn>

Age Range: Early Years Foundation Stage to A level

Contact: admin@sloughmuseum.co.uk



“The visit was very educational and enjoyable. The Students really enjoy the activities and they are delivered really well.” – Arbour Vale Teacher

“Visiting Slough Museum was insightful, interesting and I learnt so much!” Year 8 student

Stanley Spencer Gallery

Stanley Spencer Gallery (SSG), situated in Cookham, showcases the work of the world class and internationally renowned local artist Sir Stanley Spencer. SSG is an entirely volunteer-led organisation.

Stanley Spencer was born in Cookham and lived there for much of his life. He described Cookham as a “village in heaven”. As a result, the people he knew, the local landscape and village life provided the inspiration for much of his artistic output. Therefore it is possible not only to see his great work in SSG but to walk around the village to experience the locations he made famous through his art. The story of Spencer’s life is fascinating for children and adults alike. The paintings and drawings on show demonstrate his remarkable technique and depict powerful stories and images of interest to all of school age...and beyond!



Age: 4+

Stanley Spencer Gallery offers talks and guided visits customized to each school’s requirements. The gallery also offers guided walks around Cookham to see locations of Spencer’s works supported by illustrations and photographs.

Resources include a loan box, large illustrated and laminated boards, a PowerPoint presentation on the life of Spencer, books and archived material available to view, a child’s gallery activity sheet, postcards, prints and exhibition guides. It is also possible to consider bringing a Spencer work to a school/college by special arrangement and subject to security requirements.

Costs: Visits to the gallery are free. There may be a small charge for some of the resources.

Contact: Paul Grandidge, Education Officer
paul@stanleyspencer.org.uk 01628 471885

“We all had a fantastic morning walking around and looking at all of the wonderful paintings in the gallery.” Lane End Primary

“I really liked that there was a story behind every piece of art.” Lowbrook Academy

Windsor Museum

The Windsor and Royal Borough Museum (W&RBM) is a local history collection of about 9500 artefacts, which has been built up since 1951. It is a varied and remarkable collection including prehistoric tools, Bronze Age, Roman and Saxon artefacts, maps, textiles, books, paintings and prints together with objects and ephemera from before Victorian times up to World War II and the 1950s.

The Museum covers five themes; The Royal Borough & its settlement, Military Associations, Aeronautical Windsor, Working Windsor and Childhood. Visitors can:

- Listen to stories of people who have lived & worked here using audio wands
- See a selection of the many items in our Social History collection
- Look at pre-historic tools; Bronze Age, Roman & Saxon artefacts
- See objects and ephemera from Victorian times up to World War II, 1950s & the present day

Examples of Sessions:

Workshops take place at the museum and guildhall and there is a maximum of 30 students per session.

Court in the Act

This 2 hour local history session will help students find out about the past in the Royal Borough through handling objects, using original court records for evidence, developing literacy and persuasive language skills and re-enacting a real court case.



Windsor Through Time

This 2 hour object based session focuses on the history of the local area and some of the town's residents by handling museum objects, developing literacy skills through group based discussion, using maps to build awareness of the local area and comparing and contrasting the past with the present.

Age: KS1 and above

Cost: £90 for 2 hours

Contact: For bookings, more information or to discuss your school's needs please contact the Education Officer by email: museum@rbwm.gov.uk or 01628 685686

The museum also offers a 3 week oral history course of workshops working with students preparing and assisting them to conduct and record interviews with people related to their topic focus.

Resources:

Reading Museum holds a selection of loan boxes containing objects from Windsor and Royal Borough Museum.

The following loan boxes are available:

19th Century; Maidenhead's Victorian Industries (H330), Weights & Measures (H333)

20th Century; World War II (H331 & H332) and 1950s Home Life (H334)

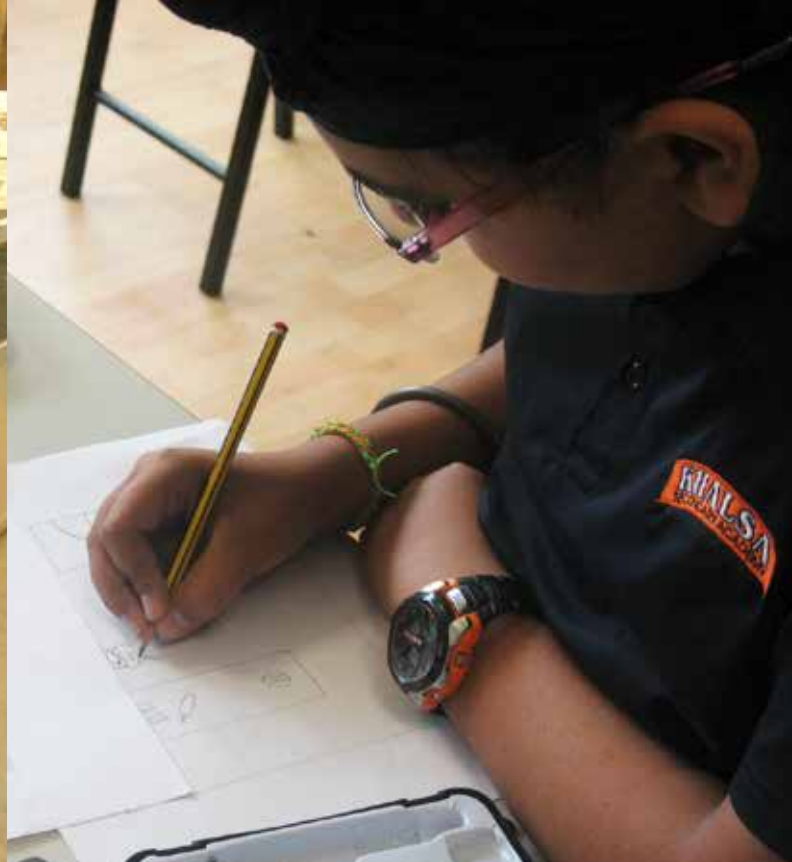
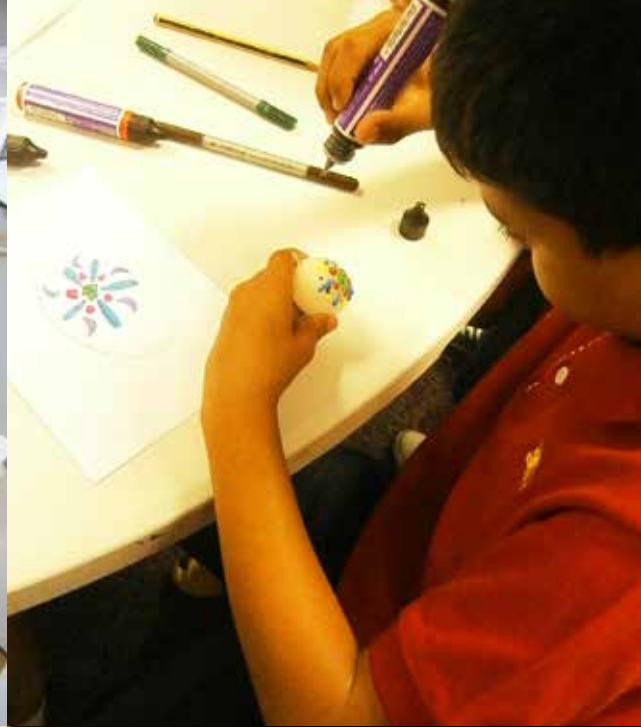
Windsor Great Park (H335), Woodworking (H336), Saxon Settlement (H337)

Windsor and the Railway (H338), Windsor Castle (H339)

For more information about how to book these please contact Reading Museum directly.



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