

'Keep Turning The Pages' – cross curricular project

Background / aims :

Traditional tales from around the world were the starting point for this cross curricular project across six primary schools. As a vehicle and concept it aimed to provide and support primary children and staff in developing and extending work for real purpose and meaning. A multi modal approach to both process and outcomes was a significant element in providing motivation, understanding and linking of different curriculum areas.



What happened:

Identifying a traditional Inuit story that had potential for connecting with the science topic of weather; one school had their Year 3 classes creating and writing their own versions as extended chapter books. Parallel study of the weather and geographical location of Inuit lands embedded subject specific and narrative language and promoted both independent and class based enquiry skills. Art and design work was produced and the classroom environment transformed into an Arctic landscape. One of the children's stories was then taken by other year groups and interpreted through music, dance and drama. Taking lyrics from the text, an original musical score was composed by them and a dance drama developed. These were showcased through performances in school and to a wider audience outside.

Phase one of the project was developed during two terms of one academic year and extended into phase two the following year.



Impact / outcomes:

Teachers involved gained valuable insight into the power of cross curricular work and were able to advance multifarious skills in their pupils to enhance their learning.

'Children were totally immersed in the project and it was such an effective scheme of work , I adapted it and used it again with this year's class', 'it was lovely to see their confidence growing and their enthusiasm to research independently and share with their peers.' 'Outcomes were amazing! So diverse!' Yr 3 teachers.

The opportunities for other year groups to build on, evaluate, and make sense of the yr 3 work through other mediums was highly successful. The significance and value for pupils to see their own work and that of others utilised, created a real sense of purpose and achievement. The musical composition was taken borough wide and taught to other primary schools for a large scale local authority event held at The Royal Albert Hall.

Examples of work from all the primaries involved in the project can be seen and heard on www.linccs-camden.org.uk 'Keep Turning The Pages' part one and two.



Considerations:

To achieve maximum potential, early identification and logistics of the following need to be discussed; time span, year groups, curriculum areas and desired outcomes.

Opportunities for sharing expertise , staff and pupils , needs to be actively encouraged and supported.