



3A Get creative with Box

Project Box Resources

- ✓ DVD *Making objects from boxwood* (4.26min)
- ✓ DVD *Making Art with Boxwood* (7.01min)
- ✓ DVD *Box in the Garden* (1.59)
- ✓ Power point *Enjoying the Harvest* Slide 1-4
- ✓ Laminated images of topiary art
- ✓ Boxwood objects x 3
- ✓ Laminated pictures of artefacts
- ✓ Wooden blocks x 6 and list
- ✓ Laminated copies of box wood prints
- ✓ *How to print* guide
- ✓ Engraved block, ink, roller, burnisher, Japanese paper

Additional resources

- ✓ Washable hard flat surface to print with engraved block, e.g. perspex sheet
- ✓ Vegetables or lino to engrave patterns
- ✓ Small skewers
- ✓ Paper and ink for children
- ✓ Scales, bowls, tea towels
- ✓ Tape measures, trundle wheels

Activities

Garden topiary visit: Before the visit, watch the DVD 'Growing box in the garden' and look at laminated images of topiary. Discuss the difference between topiary Box and unclipped Box. Discuss the shapes and patterns. On a visit to a garden with topiary, pupils explore the gardens and feedback what they saw, liked etc.

- **Geometric patterns:** Pupils draw one of the parterre designs in the garden then sketch their own birds-eye view design. Annotate it clearly, identifying shapes both 2D, 3D and tessellations.
- **Scaling down:** Pace out the perimeter of the parterre or garden and note the measurements on a diagram of the parterre/garden. When back in the classroom draw a to-scale plan of the garden or area being investigated.

Which wood? Set-up the 6 blocks. Discuss the visual differences between the blocks and how could they find out about the non-visual properties. Weigh the wood, feel for hardness and see if it sinks or floats. Discuss how the properties of the wood make it appropriate for different uses.

Crafting in the Chilterns: Before watching the DVD, look carefully at the boxwood objects and laminated images of items. What are they used for and how might they have been produced? Watch DVD *Making objects from Box*. Stop at intervals to ask questions. On paper, design / draw a carved object you would like to make.

Get Printing: Pass around the engraved block – what is this used for and how was it made? In groups discuss and put forward a suggestion. Watch DVD *Making art with Box wood* and discuss slides 3-4. Class feedback on DVD to consolidate the learning. Teacher demonstrates the printing process following the guide sheet and using the printing materials provided.

- Pupils use a cut potato, that has been dried with paper towel. Using a skewer they carefully make marks as shown on DVD, then use paint to print the potato-cut design onto paper.
- Look at laminated pictures of printed images. Research the work of Thomas Bewick and Chilterns artists (Claire Leighton, Eric Gill and Edward Stamp). Can pupils draw an animal or scene that can be found in the Chilterns? How can they use different pencil marks and shading to create different textures for feathers and fur and scales?



3A Teachers' Notes

Learning Outcomes

- Understand how the properties of box influence how it is used.
- Understand how artists create unique things reflecting their inspirations.
- Experience the processes involved in creating art using boxwood.
- Understand the printing process.
- Investigate shape, measuring, scale and tessellation using Box topiary as inspiration.
- Practical design and drawing skills.

Curriculum Connections

Science: Classifying materials according to a variety of properties

Art and Design: Learn about artists; improve techniques.

Mathematics: Investigate shape, tessellation, estimation and measuring

Preparation / Key Notes

Set up printing equipment for the demonstration. Collect additional resources listed overleaf.

Background Knowledge

The Chilterns is one of the most wooded lowland landscapes in England, with High Wycombe being a key place in the history of the nation's forestry and woodworking. Craftspeople and artists are inspired by the Chilterns scenery and people.

Box wood is different to other woods because it is incredibly dense, so much so that it doesn't float in water. Its hardness and fine grain make it perfect for engraving, especially for intricate detail. Its hardness also makes it appropriate for tool handles and printing blocks which get knocked about and used many times. Maintaining a constant shape also meant it was useful for rulers. The golden colour of boxwood has been used to contrast with other woods in marquetry.

Box (and yew) can be found clipped into ornamental shapes, mazes, knot gardens and parterres in gardens, with Chilterns examples at Chenies Manor and Cliveden. Topiary art in Britain dates back to clipped hedges found in Roman villas.

Thomas Bewick is an acclaimed artist engraver on boxwood. He was born in 1753 near Newcastle. His engravings are small-scale, finely detailed and accurate and he produced an illustrated book to encourage young people to enjoy natural history. Famous Chiltern artist engravers in the past included Eric Gill and Claire Leighton. Chris Daunt is a Newcastle artist featured in the DVD.

Web-site links and further resources

Gallery of topiary on European Box and Topiary Society UK website: www.ebts.org/wp/

Thomas Bewick: www.twmuseums.org.uk/discoveringbewick/index.php and

www.bewicksociety.org/galleries/publications.html

Chris Daunt: www.chrisdaunt.com

Chilterns artists/craftspeople (search Google images too): www.stuartking.co.uk;

www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/eric-gill-1168; www.chilternsaonb.org/ccbmaps/1348/137/claire-leighton.html; www.edwardstamp.co.uk