

Year Groups

Years
4Aspect of D&T
Structures

Focus

Shell
structures

What could children design, make and evaluate?

gift boxes/containers desk tidy
disposable/recyclable lunchboxes packaging
cool boxes party boxes keep safe boxes
mystery boxes other – specify

Project title

Design, make and evaluate a _____ (product)
for _____ (user) for _____ (purpose).

Intended users

themselves siblings parents
relatives friends younger/older children
party guests neighbours other – specify

Purpose of products

celebration storage packaging
protection marketing presentation display
postcard other – specify

Health and safety

Pupils should be taught to work safely, using tools, equipment, materials, components and techniques appropriate to the task. Risk assessments should be carried out prior to undertaking this project.

Possible resources

collection of shell
structures for different
purposes and users

card, squared paper,
coloured paper,
adhesive tape,
masking tape, PVA glue,
glue spreaders,
acetate sheet, pencils,
felt-tip pens,
rulers, right/left handed
scissors

computer with computer-
aided design (CAD)
software, printer

Key vocabulary

shell structure,
three-dimensional (3-D)
shape, net, cube,
cuboid, prism, vertex,
edge, face, length, width,
breadth, capacity
marking out, scoring,
shaping, tabs, adhesives,
joining, assemble,
accuracy, material, stiff,
strong, reduce, reuse,
recycle, corrugating,
ribbing, laminating
font, lettering, text,
graphics, decision,
evaluating, design brief
design criteria,
innovative, prototype

Key learning in design and technology

Prior learning

- Experience of using different joining, cutting and finishing techniques with paper and card.
- A basic understanding of 2-D and 3-D shapes in mathematics and the physical properties and everyday uses of materials in science.

Designing

- Generate realistic ideas and design criteria collaboratively through discussion, focusing on the needs of the user and purpose of the product.
- Develop ideas through the analysis of existing products and use annotated sketches and prototypes to model and communicate ideas.

Making

- Order the main stages of making.
- Select and use appropriate tools to measure, mark out, cut, score, shape and assemble with some accuracy.
- Explain their choice of materials according to functional properties and aesthetic qualities.
- Use finishing techniques suitable for the product they are creating.

Evaluating

- Investigate and evaluate a range of existing shell structures including the materials, components and techniques that have been used.
- Test and evaluate their own products against design criteria and the intended user and purpose.

Technical knowledge and understanding

- Develop and use knowledge of how to construct strong, stiff shell structures.
- Develop and use knowledge of nets of cubes and cuboids and, where appropriate, more complex 3D shapes.
- Know and use technical vocabulary relevant to the project.

Investigative and Evaluative Activities (IEAs)

- Children investigate a collection of different shell structures including packaging. Use questions to develop children's understanding e.g. *What is the purpose of the shell structure – protecting, containing, presenting? What material is it made from? How has it been constructed? Are the materials recyclable or reusable? How has it been stiffened i.e. folded, corrugated, ribbed, laminated? What size/shape/colour is it? What information does it show and why? How attractive is the design?*
- Children take a small package apart identifying and discussing parts of a net including the tabs e.g. *How are different faces of the package arranged? How are the tabs used to join the 'free' edges of the net?*
- Evaluate existing products to determine which designs children think are the most effective. Provide opportunities for the children to judge the suitability of the shell structures for their intended users and purposes. Discuss graphics including colours/impact of style/logo/size of font e.g. *What do you prefer and why? What style of graphics and lettering might we want to include in our product to meet users' preferences and its intended purpose? Which packaging might be the best for...?*

Focused Tasks (FTs)

- Children use kit parts with flat faces to construct nets. Practise making nets out of card, joining flat faces with masking tape to create 3-D shapes. Experiment with assembling in nets in numerous ways.
- Demonstrate skills and techniques of scoring, cutting out and assembling using pre-drawn nets. Then allow children to practise by constructing a simple box. Show how a window could be cut out and acetate sheet added.
- Demonstrate how to use different ways of stiffening and strengthening their shell structures e.g. folding and shaping, corrugating, ribbing, laminating. Provide opportunities for the children to practise these and to carry out tests to find out where their structures might need to be strengthened or stiffened.
- Children discuss and explore the graphics techniques and media that could be used to achieve the desired appearance of their products.
- Practise using computer-aided design (CAD) software to design the net, text and graphics for their products according to purposes.

Design, Make and Evaluate Assignment (DMEA)

- Develop a design brief with the children within a context which is authentic and meaningful.
- Discuss with the children the uses and purposes of their shell structures e.g. *What does the product need to do? Who is it aimed at? How will the purpose and user affect your design decisions?* Agree on design criteria that can be used to guide the development and evaluation of children's products e.g. *How will we know that we have designed and made successful products?*
- Ask the children to use annotated sketches and prototypes to develop, model and communicate their ideas for the product e.g. *What will you need to include in your design? How can you improve it? What materials will you use? How will you make sure your product works well and has the right appearance?*
- Ask children to identify the main stages of making and the appropriate tools and skills they learnt through focused tasks. Encourage the children to work with accuracy, using computer-aided design (CAD) where appropriate.
- Evaluate throughout and the final products against the intended purpose and with the intended user, drawing on the design criteria previously agreed.

Related learning in other subjects

- **Science** – discuss the properties and suitability of materials for particular purposes.
- **Mathematics** – compare and sort common 2-D and 3-D shapes in everyday objects. Recognise 3-D shapes in different orientations and describe them.
- **Spoken language** – ask relevant questions to extend knowledge and understanding. Build their technical vocabulary.

Related learning in other subjects

- **Mathematics** – use a ruler to measure to the nearest cm, half cm or mm. Draw 2-D shapes and make 3-D shapes using modelling materials.
- **Computing** – design and create digital content on screen, creating nets for their products and combining text with graphics.

Related learning in other subjects

- **Spoken language** – ask relevant questions to extend knowledge and understanding. Build technical vocabulary.
- **Art and design** – use and develop drawing skills.
- **Writing** – write for real purposes and audiences.
- **Computing** – design and create digital content on screen using computer-aided design (CAD) software, creating nets for their products and combining graphics with text.

Cultural Capital

Visits and visitors

Local shop or supermarket to explore card packaging.

Experiences and events.

Easter egg presents
Christmas fair products
End of project outcomes

Key Texts

Links

<https://www.data.org.uk/resource-shop/primary/7-to-9-years/packaging-with-links-to-maths/>
<https://www.data.org.uk/resource-shop/primary/7-to-9-years/nets-for-packaging-helpsheet/>
<https://www.data.org.uk/resource-shop/primary/7-to-9-years/packaging-banish-broken-biscuits-box-them-brilliantly/>

Community events and links
Local recycling units

Global issues
Three R's (recycling, reduce, reuse)

Famous People/companies
Ribble – top UK packaging company

Life Skills
Problem solving
Making links