

Year Groups

Years
5Aspect of D&T
StructuresFocus
Frame
structures

What could children design, make and evaluate?

playground shelter market stall bus shelter
tent play house gazebo bird hide parasol
park furniture adventure playground equipment
kite other – specify

9. Project title

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

Intended users

themselves parents younger/older children local
community walkers market trader gardeners
mountaineers bird watchers other – specify

Purpose of products

safety weather protection play pleasure
meeting place business recreation 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

products, photographs,
web-based resources of
existing frame structures

card, paper straws,
newspaper,
square sectioned wood,
masking tape, PVA glue
pencils, rulers,
right/left handed scissors,
bench hooks, G-clamp,
junior hacksaws,
glass paper

finishing media and
materials

Key vocabulary

frame structure, stiffen,
strengthen, reinforce,
triangulation, stability,
shape, join, temporary,
permanent

design brief, design
specification, prototype,
annotated sketch,
purpose, user, innovation,
research, functional

Key learning in design and technology

Prior learning

- Experience of using measuring, marking out, cutting, joining, shaping and finishing techniques with construction materials.
- Basic understanding of what structures are and how they can be made stronger, stiffer and more stable.

Designing

- Carry out research into user needs and existing products, using surveys, interviews, questionnaires and web-based resources.
- Develop a simple design specification to guide the development of their ideas and products, taking account of constraints including time, resources and cost.
- Generate, develop and model innovative ideas, through discussion, prototypes and annotated sketches.

Making

- Formulate a clear plan, including a step-by-step list of what needs to be done and lists of resources to be used.
- Competently select from and use appropriate tools to accurately measure, mark out, cut, shape and join construction materials to make frameworks.
- Use finishing and decorative techniques suitable for the product they are designing and making.

Evaluating

- Investigate and evaluate a range of existing frame structures.
- Critically evaluate their products against their design specification, intended user and purpose, identifying strengths and areas for development, and carrying out appropriate tests.
- Research key events and individuals relevant to frame structures.

Technical knowledge and understanding

- Understand how to strengthen, stiffen and reinforce 3-D frameworks.
- Know and use technical vocabulary relevant to the project.

Investigative and Evaluative Activities (IEAs)

- Children investigate and make annotated drawings of a range of portable and permanent frame structures, e.g. tents, bus shelters, umbrellas. Use photographs and web-based research to extend the range e.g. *How well does the frame structure meet users' needs and purposes? Why were materials chosen? What methods of construction have been used? How has the framework been strengthened, reinforced and stiffened? How does the shape of the framework affect its strength? How innovative is the design? When was it made? Who made it? Where was it made?*
- Children could research key events and individuals related to their study of frame structures e.g. Stephen Sauvestre – a designer of the Eiffel Tower; Thomas Farnolls Pritchard – designer of the Iron Bridge. They could also learn about locally important design and technology activity related to their project.

Focused Tasks (FTs)

- Use a construction kit consisting of plastic strips and paper fasteners to build 2-D frameworks. Compare the strength of square frameworks with triangular frameworks. Ask the children to reinforce square frameworks using diagonals to help develop an understanding of using triangulation to add strength to a structure.
- Demonstrate how paper tubes can be made from rolling sheets of newspaper diagonally around pieces of e.g. dowel. Ask children to use these tubes and masking tape or paper straws with pipe cleaners to build 3-D frameworks such as cubes, cuboids and pyramids. *How could each of the frameworks be reinforced and strengthened?*
- Demonstrate the accurate use of tools and equipment. Develop skills and techniques using junior hacksaws, G-clamps, bench hooks, square section wood, card triangles and hand drills to construct wooden frames, as appropriate.
- Demonstrate skills and techniques for accurately joining framework materials together e.g. paper straws, square sectioned wood. Ask children to practise these, mounting their joints onto card for future reference.

Design, Make and Evaluate Assignment (DMEA)

- Discuss the brief of designing and making a small-scale frame structure e.g. *Who is the intended user and what is the purpose of the frame structure? Will it be permanent, or can it be easily dismantled? What materials will you use? How will it be joined? How will it be reinforced? How will it be finished?* Children should be encouraged to generate innovative ideas, drawing on their research. Ask children to develop a simple design specification to guide their thinking.
- Children should produce a detailed, step-by-step plan, listing tools and materials.
- Children's sketches should be annotated with notes to help develop and communicate their ideas.
- Encourage children to model their ideas first using materials such as paper, card and paper straws e.g. *How will you make it stable? How will it stand up? How could you make it stronger? Where are the weak points? How could you reinforce them? What tools and materials will you need? How can you improve the design?*
- Encourage children to make their products with accuracy. They should regularly evaluate their work and their completed product, drawing on their design specification, and thinking about the intended purpose and user.

Related learning in other subjects

- **Science** – compare and group together everyday materials on the basis of their properties.
- **Mathematics** – identify 3-D shapes, including cubes and other cuboids, from 2-D representations.
- **Spoken language** – ask relevant questions, formulate and express opinions, give well-structured descriptions and explanations. Use relevant strategies to build their vocabulary.

Related learning in other subjects

- **Mathematics** – recognise, describe and build simple 3-D shapes. Apply understanding and skill to carry out accurate measuring using standard units i.e. cm/mm.
- **Spoken language** – ask relevant questions, formulate and express opinions, give well-structured descriptions and explanations. Use strategies to build their vocabulary.

Related learning in other subjects

- **Spoken language** – ask relevant questions, formulate and express opinions, give well-structured descriptions and explanations. Use strategies to build their vocabulary.
- **Art and design** – use and develop drawing skills.
- **Mathematics** – apply understanding and skill to carry out accurate measuring using standard units i.e. cm/mm.

Cultural Capital	
Visits and visitors Local frame structure trail	Experiences and events. Play pod structure building National bird watching week
Key Texts	Links https://www.data.org.uk/resource-shop/primary/structures/bird-hide-design-and-make-challenge/
Community events and links Allotments Wickwar park	Global issues
Famous People Stephen Sauvertre Thomas Farnolls Prithard	Life Skills problem-solving teamwork negotiation consumer awareness organisation motivation persuasion perseverance