

The Iron Age Growing Dyes Project

Summary:

This workshop is called 'The Iron Age Dyes Workshop'. Pupils will explore how dyes are grown, and then extracted from plants, by actually doing the entire process themselves. Starting with sowing the seeds in a flowerbed in your playground, then harvesting, and extracting the dyes and producing a colour library, then finally using the dyes. This project comprises three workshops and all are conducted on your schools premises.

Age Group: The project can be adapted to suit the class. However First and Second levels will gain the most from the project, because by p2 they will have the strength to use the pestle and mortars.

Requirements: In order to run the project you will need a minimum of 4m x1m land.

Timescale: The project begins with planting in April/ May depending on the weather (session 1). The second session is to harvest and process the plants and produce the colour library. The final session is to use your colours! This is entirely up to you, there are so many possibilities we can dye wool, and weave a simple tartan for your school. Or dye fabric, you can even make your dyes into ink for writing.

Why should you choose this workshop?

Because it is an amazing opportunity to grow traditional dye colours, just as our ancestors did 2000years ago. It makes you appreciate the process, the variety of colours you can find in nature, and how our ancestors used them. There are so many applications for the dyes you produce, the final workshop is planned around your groups ideas, to help you make something meaningful with your colour library.

Curriculum links:

Early	First	Second
	I can help design experiments to find out what plants need in order to grow and develop. I can observe and record my findings and from what I have learnt I can grow healthy plants in School. SCN 103a	Through carrying out practical activities and investigations, I can show how plants have benefited society. SCN 202b.
	I can compare aspects of people's daily lives in the past with my own by using historical evidence or the experience of recreating an historical setting. SOC 104a	I can compare and contrast a society in the past with my own and contribute to a discussion of the similarities and differences. SOC 204a
I have helped to grow plants and talk about their	Having explored the variety of foods produced	

basic parts. I can talk about how they grow and what I need to do to look after them. SCN 003a	in Scotland. I can discuss the importance of different types of agriculture in the production of these foods. SOC 109a.	
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SOC= Social Studies curriculum.

SCN = Science curriculum.