

Thursday 17th October Activity 4

Exploring ideas: the kinds of changes that we would like to see in the school grounds

Activity: classroom based

Schedule:

Review: pupils to consider everything they have learned up till this point

Collate all previous material on a series of plans, so that it can be easily referred to

Pupils to **create individual, or group, garden designs,** with supporting written material & drawings

Pupils and artist to **produce one large 3D model,** to be worked on collectively.

The pupils started to create their individual garden designs. I tried to break down the process of designing into stages, to make it easier for them to understand:

1. Shapes, colours, materials, paths
2. Identify areas – quiet areas, play areas etc.
3. Entrance, centre and exit of garden.
4. Play equipment and sculpture etc.

They were asked to concentrate on the first stage only, using A2 sheets of paper, coloured paper and patterned paper, and coloured pens.

I told them to use the same methods as they had the previous session – shapes, words, lines; but this time that had to fit into the defined garden perimeter.



Some pupils, who had trouble producing 2D work, produced 3D models by stapling together coloured foam. All pupils were very keen to produce 3D models/sculpture, but because of the demands of the session I was unable to assist the pupils individually, which meant that only the more able pupils succeeded with this.

Evaluation

In retrospect this session was too ambitious – the pupils found this all too much to take on board. Given pens and paper, they immediately reverted to drawing/designing 'things' they wanted in the garden, and not designing the garden itself. However, one or two pupils did manage this task and at break we all stopped, looked at their examples, and thought about the instructions for the task again.



Second Attempts

The second artworks produced were better, some pupils starting to produce some good designs – however by lunch, we were all feeling a bit tired and emotional after an intensive one and a half days in the classroom. Therefore, after lunch, we decided to take a break, and I gave the pupils three options:

1. Creating sculpture outside with sticks and leaves
2. Making flags, and creating artworks with them outside
3. Continuing with their garden designs in the classroom.

Group 1

I accompanied group 1 outside, while groups 2 and 3 remained in the classroom. I wanted to work on my group's teamwork and initiative, as I felt this would help them with their designs. Accordingly, I asked them to work in small groups to create an artwork using the available materials – which were limited, mainly wood, tiles and leaves. This artwork was to be completed in half an hour. All the artworks were then to be linked together to form one large artwork.

The pupils started well, the artworks they produced were larger and stronger in design than the artworks produced at the start of the week. *However, once they started to run low on materials, they were unable to adapt by finding alternative materials e.g. leaves, or expanding their existing artwork to cover a larger area.* Their solution was to fight over the remaining materials – showing a very poor team spirit!

Group 2: Working with Flags

I asked them to produce several artworks with the flags:

1. The flags were stuck in the ground in a group, but in no particular order or shape. We agreed that this looked a bit messy.
2. The flags were rearranged to create a large circle, with a smaller circle in the centre. This looked a lot better.
3. The flags were rearranged to create a long line going up the mound. We could look at this artwork from lots of different viewpoints.
4. The flags were again placed in a line, but this time thinking about the colours of the flags. The pupils placed them in order – red, green, blue, red, green, blue etc. This looked more ordered.

Evaluation

The group had to co-operate and work/think together as a team, to produce these artworks – which they did very well. We could have taken this much further, but time was limited and it was extremely cold. Overall, the pupils loved working with the flags, but we were limited by how many flags we could make in a short space of time.

If I were to repeat the session, I would look at ways of speeding up the production of the flags – enabling us to spend more time using the flags to create artworks, instead of making them.

Tomorrow, we need to complete the individual designs. In today's session, I feel that I gave the pupils too much freedom – a more carefully structured session should enable all pupils to complete this task.

Revised schedule for tomorrow:

- Pupils to have one hour to **produce a garden design on an A2 sheet of paper, using coloured paper & one pen** – for layout purposes only.
- Each design is to contain a:
 - Lawn,
 - Patio/Deck,
 - Flower Bed,
 - Tree,
 - Sculpture/
 - Water Feature,
 - Entrance and Exit

*End of project report
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