



THINK OF THE FUTURE

8-10 yrs old 11-13 yrs old Art and Design Climate & Environment Geography

In this lesson, students build a statue which represents their country now and in the future.



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Learning Objectives

- Discuss what makes your country unique and what it will look like by the end of the 21st Century
- Design and build a statue which represents your country in the 21st Century.

Guiding Ideas

In this lesson pupils think about what makes their country unique and what it will look like by the end of the 21st Century. Pupils work collaboratively to investigate:

- What is special about your country or what is it famous for?
- What issues/ problems face your country in the 21st Century?
- How do you would like your country to be represented to the rest of the world?
- If you were going to build a statue to represent your country, what would you include?

Students build a statue which represents their country in the 21st Century. It is important to consider:

- The size of the statue - you may want to give students a designated area to build within or ask them to build a fence to build within.
- How long will you give students to build? I would recommend between 30-60 minutes.

- The name of the statue.
- How will students share their statue?

I did this activity with students aged between 9-11 in primary school in Wales and with 8-9 year olds from a school in London. It was amazing to discover the differences in how students viewed their countries and the ideas they came up with. The pupils in Wales thought of many innovative ideas for a statue including: a multi coloured sheep to represent genetic modification, a flooded Welsh flag to represent global warming and a the Welsh dragon as a cyborg. We used students statues to create a whole school display as part of our St David's Day celebrations (Saint David is the patron saint for Wales.)

Student Activities

Introduce learning objectives with students

Collaboration/ Discussion: In groups pupils discuss what makes their country unique and what it is famous for. By the end of the 21st century will it is still be famous for these things? Consider what problems/ issues could face their country. If they were going to build a statue which represents their country in the 21st Century what would it be?

Planning: Students think about the questions above and plan their statues. As they will be building them using Minecraft Education Edition, they should consider what block they will use ad the size of their statues. Students' plans could include: sketches, labelled diagrams, a chart or paragraph.

Building: Students build their 21st Century statues in a shared world using Minecraft Education Edition. Groups/ pairs could work collaboratively on a statue or students could work individually. Encourage students to reflect on how they are creating their statues and if they are meeting the learning objectives. Ask them to name their statues and create a sign to place next to it.

Sharing: When all statues have been completed, ask students to investigate the world they have created. Encourage them to give feedback to each other and give them time to refine their statues based on feedback. Ask students to take a photograph of their statue and create a presentation to share with their peers. Alternatively these could be exported to create 3D models.

When I did this activity with my students I paired up with another school. Following the activity we held a Skype call where students had the opportunity to share their statues and discuss the reasons for their representations with students from a different school.

Performance Expectations

By the end of the session all students will:

- Discuss their own country and consider what its place within the 21st Century World.
- Plan and design a 21st Century Statue to represent their own country.
- Build their 21st Century Statue using Minecraft Education Edition.
- Discuss statues created by their peers and offer feedback.
- Refine their own statues based on the feedback of others.
- Share their 21st Century Statues in the form of a presentation.

Skills

- Collaboration
- Creativity
- Critical Thinking

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