

## Creating the setting – making dugouts

*History/Art and Design*

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To transform an area of the classroom into a space for creative/imaginative work
- To use scrap materials to create a large-scale historical artefact (a dugout)
- To understand how dugouts were made and used through imaginative experience
- To go deeper into learning about the experience of World War One.

### SKILLS TARGETED

- Online research
- Art and Design
- Imaginative play
- Working with large-scale objects.

### RESOURCES

- Boxes for the dugout
- Wooden posts (eg bamboo canes/mop handles) to strengthen the entrance
- Hessian cloth/sacking
- Boxes to become seating/tables inside
- Photographs of the period showing scenes from home or of people – to be stuck onto the sides of the dugout
- Simple supplies, ideally replicating what was available at the time, eg hard biscuits
- Entertainment, eg cards, drawing materials, a mouth organ.

### SUGGESTED TIME SCALE

- This exercise can be ongoing as the dugouts will develop alongside the children's understanding of the story.

#### Step 1

Collect large cardboard boxes, eg those used for packing washing machines, freezers etc. These will be the dugouts.

#### Step 2

In groups of four, the children can research dugouts online: what they looked like, how they were used, how they were made comfortable etc. The dugouts need to look realistic, as they can be the starting point for lots of creative work.

#### Step 3

Once you've agreed how many large boxes can realistically fit into the classroom, the children can start working in groups to transform them into dugouts. Tape the wooden poles along the open sides of each box so that the sides don't collapse.

#### Step 4

Once the dugouts are in place, decorating them can happen over an extended period of time.

### SUCCESS CRITERIA

- Children will learn about the purpose and appearance of dugouts
- They will create their own dugouts using the materials available
- They can use the dugouts as creative spaces to stimulate imaginative work.

### ADDITIONAL NOTES

It is hoped that the children will become very attached to the dugouts as creative and/or reflective spaces for work and play. They can be used when children are involved in associated reading or writing tasks, for pair or small group discussions etc. It would be lovely to have music close by so that children could also listen to appropriate songs (from *War Horse* or from the period) when inside the dugouts.



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