



Talking Textiles

Workshop

Information for Teachers

Introduction

Talking Textiles is a workshop session at the Quilt Museum and Gallery designed for Key Stage 2 pupils.

Pupils will be encouraged to unravel the stories woven into textiles through handling and examining real objects, from quilts to costume. Interactive challenges and craft activities will take pupils on a creative learning journey and help them to understand the many ways that 'textiles can talk'!

QCA links

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| • Art & Design Unit 5C | Talking Textiles |
| • Art & Design Unit 3B | Investigating Pattern |
| • Citizenship Unit 1 | Taking Part: Developing Communication & Participation |
| • English En1, En2, En3 | Presentation, Storytelling/writing, Multicultural Influence, Composition |

Learning Objectives

- To learn how stories have been told through textiles in the past and present
- To investigate and speak about textile-based objects
- To make observations and simple comparisons with modern textiles
- To develop imaginative narratives based on real objects
- To learn new techniques for creating artwork with different materials
- To work in groups to develop a class textile artwork to take back to school
- To understand what is involved in effective listening
- To listen and respond to others
- To develop skills of discussion, negotiation and cooperation in a group

Workshop

This workshop is suitable for up to 30 pupils and lasts approximately 1 hour 15 minutes.

The workshop takes place in the Education Room and will be led by a fully trained Learning Facilitator.

The Learning Facilitator introduces pupils to the idea of a talking textile through interactive examination of a story-based quilt (5 minutes). In small groups, pupils then investigate mystery textile objects and use clue cards to unravel the story behind them. Each group will present their object story (10 minutes).

The Learning Facilitator will then bring the class back together to explore how a textile can use the senses to tell a story, including sight, touch, smell and sound (5 minutes).

After learning some simple sewing and embellishing techniques (20 minutes), the groups will return to their tables with a 'story fragment' and will each create an imaginative story block on plain cotton fabric to illustrate their section (30 minutes). At the end of the session, the class will look at their collective blocks and put them in the correct order to tell the story (5 minutes).

The Galleries

We have two galleries that support the Talking Textiles workshop and we highly recommend an independent gallery visit to support your pupil's learning journey.

The Heritage Gallery offers an exciting and ever-changing exhibition of quilts from the past whilst the Bailey Gallery offers the chance to see some contemporary quilts and learn how traditional quilting techniques and materials have developed.

Current Exhibition Trails and Teacher's Information Sheets are sent to all teachers who book an independent gallery visit.

Pre-visit activity suggestions

- Examining textiles and objects for stories – Bayeaux Tapestry, Egyptian hieroglyphics, Ancient Greek vases, Toys through time
- Storyboarding activity – how do images enhance a story? How does an artist choose which bits to illustrate? Draw a storyboard for book being read in class
- Focused study on an Illustrator or Cartoonist

- Textile Trail at home – how many textiles could students find, how and when were they made, who made them?

Follow-up activities

- More sewing skills in the classroom – we can offer this as an outreach session or help you with ideas for basic sewing sessions/projects
- Produce an exhibition from artworks made during the workshop
- Evaluate the artwork – does it tell the story effectively; what could you do differently; could someone who doesn't know the story understand the textile?
- Write a story or poem that fits with an 'everyday' textile from home
- Hold a textiles craft fair or charity sale
- Use the internet to research different types of textile art and create a textiles design scrap book.

Your 'Talking Textiles' notes

