

Invent a Solution

As part of DT lessons, children learn about coming up with a range of different solutions to problems, as well as learning about asking questions and being prepared to fail. This is a natural link to growth mindset. Children who feel they can keep improving will make the most progress.

"An inventor fails 999 times, and if he succeeds once, he's in. He treats his failures simply as practice shots."

Charles Kettering (inventor)

Evaluation

Ask the children to look for small problems in their everyday lives that need solutions. For example, they might have difficulty remembering their homework or tidying their room, they might always argue with their siblings over what to watch on TV or with their friends about what games to play. Encourage the children to identify these problems and come up with creative ways to solve them.

Is it better if you ask an adult to solve these problems or if you reach your own solution?
Does it make you happier when these problems are solved?

making
happy

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____



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Activity 2 - Writing a Fact File

curriculum Link: English

Objectives

The pupil can:

- write effectively for a range of purposes and audiences, selecting language that shows good awareness of the reader
- use further organisational and presentational devices to structure text and to guide the reader

Activity

Do some research into your favourite invention.

Work together in your class to create a list of subheadings to research, e.g. what was the invention, who invented it, when did they live, where were they from, what age were they, what problems did they encounter, etc.

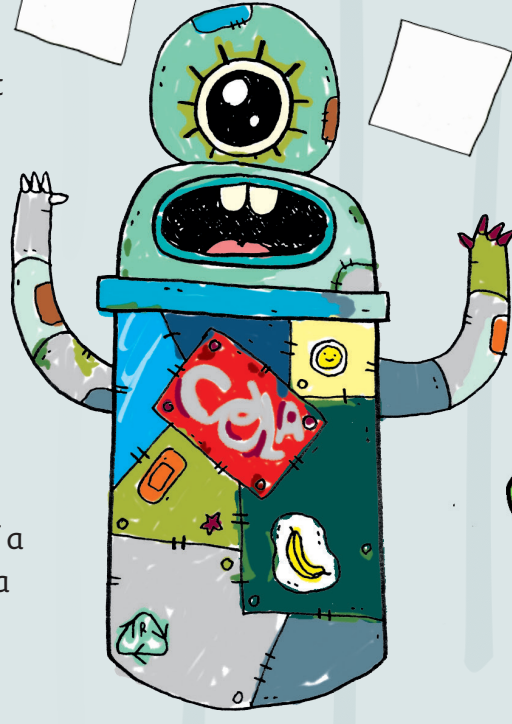
Write a fact file of the inventions and put them together to make a class book or display of famous inventions and their inventors.

Suggestions

Encourage the children to use the grammar features you have been teaching that term.

You could display the sentences on the leaves of a tree or on baubles to go on a Christmas tree for a festive display.

You could design and decorate a paper bauble and send it home with the sentence on the back, or include it on a Christmas card.



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Activity 3 - Invent a Solution

curriculum Link: DT

Objectives

DT2/1.2b select from and use a wider range of materials and components, including construction materials, textiles and ingredients, according to their functional properties and aesthetic qualities

Activity

Think of a problem that needs a solution. It could be a problem that's linked to a topic you are studying, or to something else in the school or the local area. For example, parking problems outside the school, using too many plastic bags, children forgetting their homework, parents not having enough hands to carry the shopping in.

Brainstorm as many different ideas as possible, without stopping to evaluate whether they are good or not.

Rate the ideas on a scale and think about how much they might cost to carry out. Are any of the ideas good but too expensive?

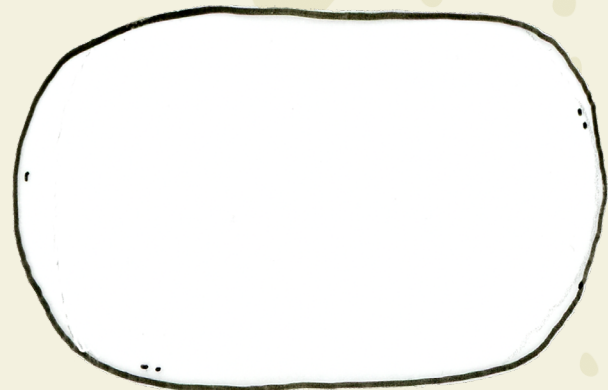
Take the two best ideas and create a plan for them. If there is time make a model for your design and evaluate it.

Do you think it will solve the problem? What difficulties might you encounter along the way?

Suggestions

You could also link this to the DT curriculum, for example, making a moving toy for a younger child.

The children could work in pairs or small groups to brainstorm the ideas.



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