

Curious Creatures – Frans Post & Brazil

The Natural History of Post

Teachers' Notes

Summary	Combine a visit to the exhibition with a hands-on workshop at the National Museum of Ireland, Natural History.
Year groups suitable for	Primary: 3 rd - 6 th class
Session itinerary	<p>Part 1: National Gallery of Ireland, 10.00am – 10.45am Explore the exhibition <i>Curious Creatures – Frans Post & Brazil</i> with one of our expert guides. In an interactive tour, the children will discover more about Post's journey to Brazil and the animals he found there.</p> <p>Part 2: National Museum of Ireland, Natural History – 11.00am – 11.45am During this hands-on workshop, touch different skulls of curious creatures from South America and explore the Mammals of the World exhibition with a Museum Educator. Discover the different animals that were gifted to the Museum by explorers over 100 years ago!</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduce students to the work of Frans Post - Introduce students to some of the animals from Brazil - Introduce students to South American animal skulls from a museum handling collection - Introduce students to taxidermy displays and how museums get their collections - Introduce students to some of the endangered South American animals
Themes explored	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 17th century exploration - Colonialism - Brazil - South American animals - Animal skulls - Taxidermy and museum collections - Endangered animals - Threats to animals
Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interactive guided tour - Handling session with museum bio-facts (e.g. skulls)

<p>Curriculum links</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art - Drawing: looking and responding • History - Eras of change and conflict: Traders, explorers and colonisers from Europe (fifth and sixth class) • Geography - People and other lands; Environmental awareness • Science - Plants and animals; Environmental awareness; Questioning; Observing, Analysing
<p>Learning outcomes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Knowledge: Learn who Frans Post was, why he was in Brazil, and the animals he found there. Learn how to identify different parts of an animal skull, how to identify an animals diet by looking at its teeth, what is taxidermy and how museums get their collections, learn about different endangered species and their threats 2. Skills: Develop visual literacy, critical thinking skills, questioning, observing, analysing 3. Attitude & Values: Develop empathy for animals in captivity, wildlife and the environment 4. Enjoyment, Inspiration & Creativity: Find art interesting; make connections with the natural world; learning and exploring through touch 5. Activity, behaviour, progression: Learn what is expected of visitors to galleries/museums; Learn to show respect for other people’s needs in public places; Interest in visiting the gallery/museum again or other galleries/museums out of school
<p>Before your visit - information</p>	<p>Around 380 years ago, the artist Frans Post (1612-1680) left the Netherlands for Brazil. At this time north-eastern Brazil was a Dutch colony, and Post was an official expedition artist, tasked with documenting the landscape. He spent seven years (1637-1644) recording the local environment, producing meticulous drawings and detailed oil paintings. Our exhibition Curious Creatures: Frans Post and Brazil presents an exciting opportunity to see thirty-four recently discovered artworks from the Noord-Hollands Archief in Haarlem, alongside various South American animal specimens on loan from our friends and neighbours at the National Museum of Ireland, Natural History.</p> <p>The National Museum of Ireland opened its doors in 1857. It is a cabinet-styled Victorian museum. There are about 10,000 animals and fossils on display in the building. There are currently two floors opened to the public, the Irish Room on the Ground Floor and Mammals of the World Exhibition on the First Floor. The Natural History of Post workshop will involve a handling session with skulls</p>

	<p>in the Reading Area and an interactive tour of the Mammals of the Word exhibition, both of which are on the First Floor. The workshop at the Museum is Not Wheelchair Accessible.</p> <p>Link here to information on the schools programme at the Museum.</p> <p>Link to information about the Museum e.g. how to find us etc...</p>
<p>Before your visit – suggested activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make the most of your visit to the Museum. Before your visit, why not take a 3D Virtual Tour of the Museum of Natural History in the classroom https://www.museum.ie/Natural-History/Exhibitions/Current-Exhibitions/3D-Virtual-Visit-Natural-History - Prepare the class for the visit by using the 3D Virtual Tour - give them an idea of what to expect or discuss the Museum in advance of the visit. Topics you might like to cover include biodiversity, endangerment & extinction, predator-prey interactions, camouflage, conservation, or taxidermy.
<p>After your visit – suggested activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A classroom lesson on animal adaptations to various environments in Brazil. Followed by students designing their own animals. Students must explain the rationale behind each feature of their animal. Students could design an animal for the following environments: Tropical rainforest, Woodland savannah, Freshwater wetland, Dry forest/desert and Ocean. A useful resource on Brazilian environments and animals can be found at https://www.arkive.org/c/discover-brazil