

Shaping Ireland: Landscapes in Irish Art

Seedbombs workshop

Teachers' Notes

Session duration	2 hours
Summary	<p>Explore the exhibition with artist Emily Robyn Archer and discover the important role of bees and other pollinators in the Irish ecosystem. This cross-curricular workshop will take students outside into Merrion Square to creatively explore the local environment. Students will make seedbombs to take home and help spread flowers across Ireland!</p> <p>In this fun workshop participants will explore the web of life and experience it through creative play. We will discover Pollinators and the important role they play in turning flowers to fruit and seed so that we have food to eat.</p> <p>We will learn how to make seedbombs using native Irish wild flower seeds.</p> <p>Please note that part of the workshop will take place outdoors in Merrion Square. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear.</p>
Year groups suitable for	Jnr infants – 6 th class
Session itinerary	<p>Part 1 (indoors, <i>Shaping Ireland</i> exhibition)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibition exploration and discussion on ways the living world matters to us <p>Part 2 (outdoors, Merrion Square)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature exploration and discussion of living things in the park Web of life activity Pollinators: issues with loss of habitat, toxic herbicides etc. Explore solutions. <p>Part 3 (outdoors, Merrion Square)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making seedbombs Using compost, clay and native Irish Wildflower seeds Egg boxes (brought by participants) are used as containers. Colour-in and attach label and instructions for planting
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To introduce students to the <i>Shaping Ireland</i> exhibition To connect the works in the exhibition with the importance of environmental issues today

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To introduce students to the role of pollinators and why they are essential for the survival for Ireland's ecosystem • To empower students to make a positive difference to their local environment • To increase awareness & appreciation of the natural world • To deepen sense of connection to the natural world • To understand the importance of pollinators to our food systems • To discover the magic of seeds, how to make seedbombs and how to use them
Themes explored	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irish landscape art • Interconnectedness and interdependence of all life • Human impact/ responsibility to care for nature • Pollination
Methods	Group activity, discussion, movement, nature walking, visual aids, creative interaction, hands-on making
Curriculum links	<p>English Oral Language: Receptiveness to language; Competence and confidence in using language; Developing cognitive abilities through language; Emotional and imaginative development through language</p> <p>Visual Art Looking and Responding</p> <p>History Continuity and change in the local environment Food and farming</p> <p>Geography Natural Environments: The local natural environment; Land, rivers and seas of my county/Ireland Environmental awareness and care: Caring for my locality; Environmental Awareness; Caring for the environment</p> <p>Science Living Things: Plants and animals Environmental Awareness and Care: Caring for my locality/environment; Environmental awareness; Science and the environment</p> <p>S.P.H.E. Myself and the Wider World</p>
Learning outcomes	<p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop knowledge and understanding of the work of artists who have depicted the Irish landscape

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop knowledge and understanding of the role of pollinators in the Irish ecosystem • develop critical thinking skills • develop basic horticulture skills • explore the natural environment • feel empowered to make a difference to the environment • have fun • be surprised by Nature • explore, experiment & be creative • deepen their understanding and appreciation of the natural world • make links and see relationships between things in nature
Before your visit – background information	<p>Please encourage each participant to bring an egg box (six pack) with them for use in the workshop. Paper/card type preferred</p> <p>If possible have a look at this video before you come. It shows many dramatic aspects of pollination, note these are not our own native species but species with same pollinating functions/roles.</p> <p>Wear appropriate clothes/footwear for going outside into Merrion Square.</p>
Before your visit – suggested activities	<p>Familiarize yourself with the Junior Pollinator Plan in Ireland and use some talking points or activities to start with your class.</p>
After your visit – suggested activities	<p>Plant your seedbombs!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideal in a biodiversity patch in your school • Seedbombs can be thrown but they stand a better chance of not drying out if they are buried slightly. • Native Wildflower seeds like open ground with little competition from grasses or other plants • Water if necessary in dryer weather. • Why not try a few in pots in the classroom to track/compare progress • Some students may want to take some home to plant there. • Here are a few guidelines from seedball.co.uk