

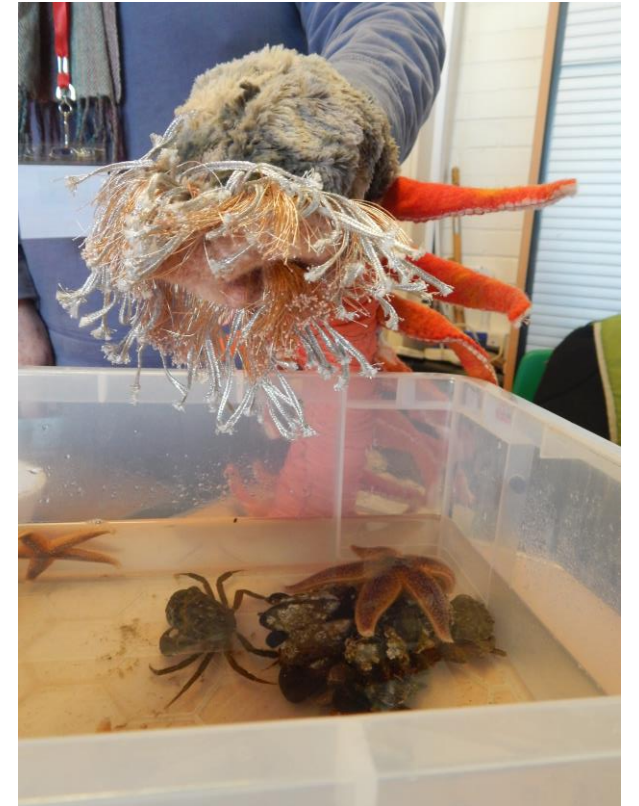


The Laal Collective

Digital Resource

The Sands of Time

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- The Sands of Time was a creative arts project working with seven schools in Maryport. The idea was about reconnecting cluster schools after the pandemic had stopped them from being able to work together.
- The Laal Collective's ethos is to make communities proud of where they come from, so we looked at the marine heritage of Maryport, in particular a fascinating creature called the Honeycomb worm.
- The structure of this project can work for schools as a single class, through year groups or across cluster schools. It can also use any topic you wish.





Project Structure

The project broke down into 6 sections

- Introduction
- Story creation
- Shadow puppet making
- Music creation
 - Filming
 - Celebration

You can use a mixture of these sections

Introduction

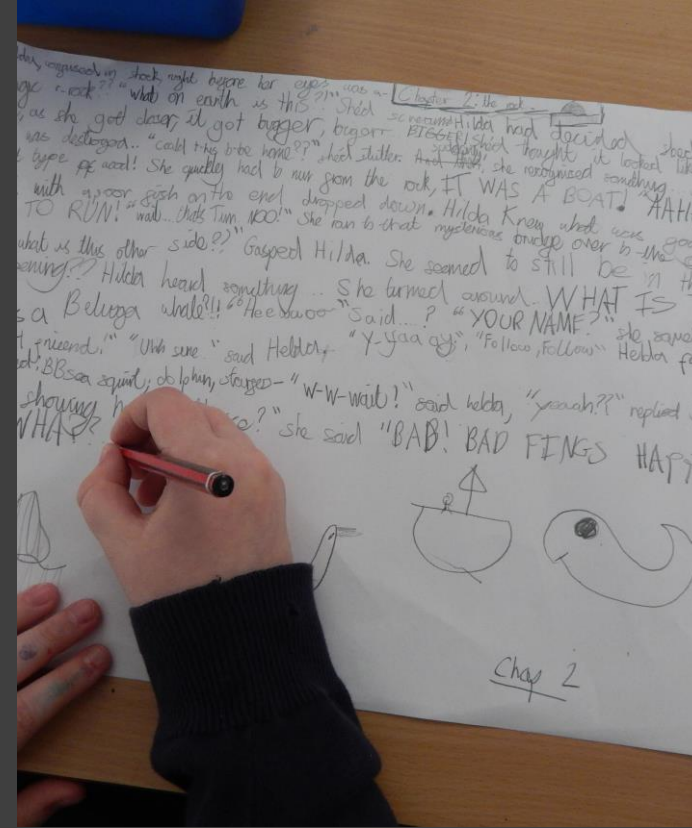
- This session was about giving the children the information to inspire them. The session was introduced by Hilda, a honeycomb worm puppet who talked to the children about her life and the children could ask her questions. We created games around our topic to play such as Coastal corners to discover what species were in our waters, and Jenga to show how the destruction of one part of marine life can affect the others. We also worked with Cumbria Wildlife Trust/ Living Seas NW who brought a living rock pool into the class and answered questions about marine life around Maryport.
- The important thing about this session is getting the children excited about the topic. This can be done simply by watching video clips or researching, or by visiting places.



Story Creation

- Using the information gathered in the previous session, the children created a story. This can be done as a class developing a whole story, or year groups or schools taking on a chapter of the story. If working in this way the story needs to be passed on over a number of days/weeks so the previous chapter can be heard.
- As a company, The Laal Collective uses drawing and conversation to develop story ideas. This needs someone to notate the conversation around drawings and to collate the ideas into a story, but is a way of everyone being able to access this process, especially in early years.
- This section can be developed as a creative writing session, through storytelling games or through drawings as described above. Its about imagination, and using the best way to harness this.

If time is short the story creation can come through the shadow puppet making – please see the shadow making section.

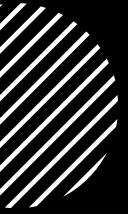


Shadow Puppetry

- Shadow puppets are a very simple way to cover many aspects of the curriculum, from light and dark, to science, to art. This section will take you through how to create shadow puppets.
- You will need: card, pencil, scissors, coloured cellophane, sticks. Optional extras are pom poms, feathers, lace – anything that will create a shape or pattern in light.
- A screen and light source. This can simply be a light coloured sheet attached tautly to a table with a torch behind it. We use a piece of material attached to a clothes rail with an overhead projector as our light source.



- Firstly draw your shape for the puppet on the card. It's important that the children are aware that the drawing needs to be big. We use A4 sheets and ask them to make their drawing fill the sheet. It's also important they are aware that light will be blocked by something solid. So a solid shape will appear black on a shadow screen. If you cut holes in your shape, that pattern will appear on the screen. So when drawing the design, this needs to be thought about.



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- Once you are happy with your design, cut it out. Take care when cutting out the patterns in the centre of the shape. An easy way to do this is to fold the card and make a snip in the centre of the shape you want to cut out. This way you can get the scissors in easier to cut out the shape.
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- Once the puppet shape is cut out, you can add coloured cellophane to the cut out patterns to add colour, or ribbons and pom poms to create fun shapes.

- As an additional note, if time is short, you could create the shadow puppets first and then create a story through allowing the children to play and interact with their shadow puppets on screen. While using the puppets on screen this creates opportunities to discuss light and shadow, how the closer to the light something is the bigger the shadow, the further away, the smaller.





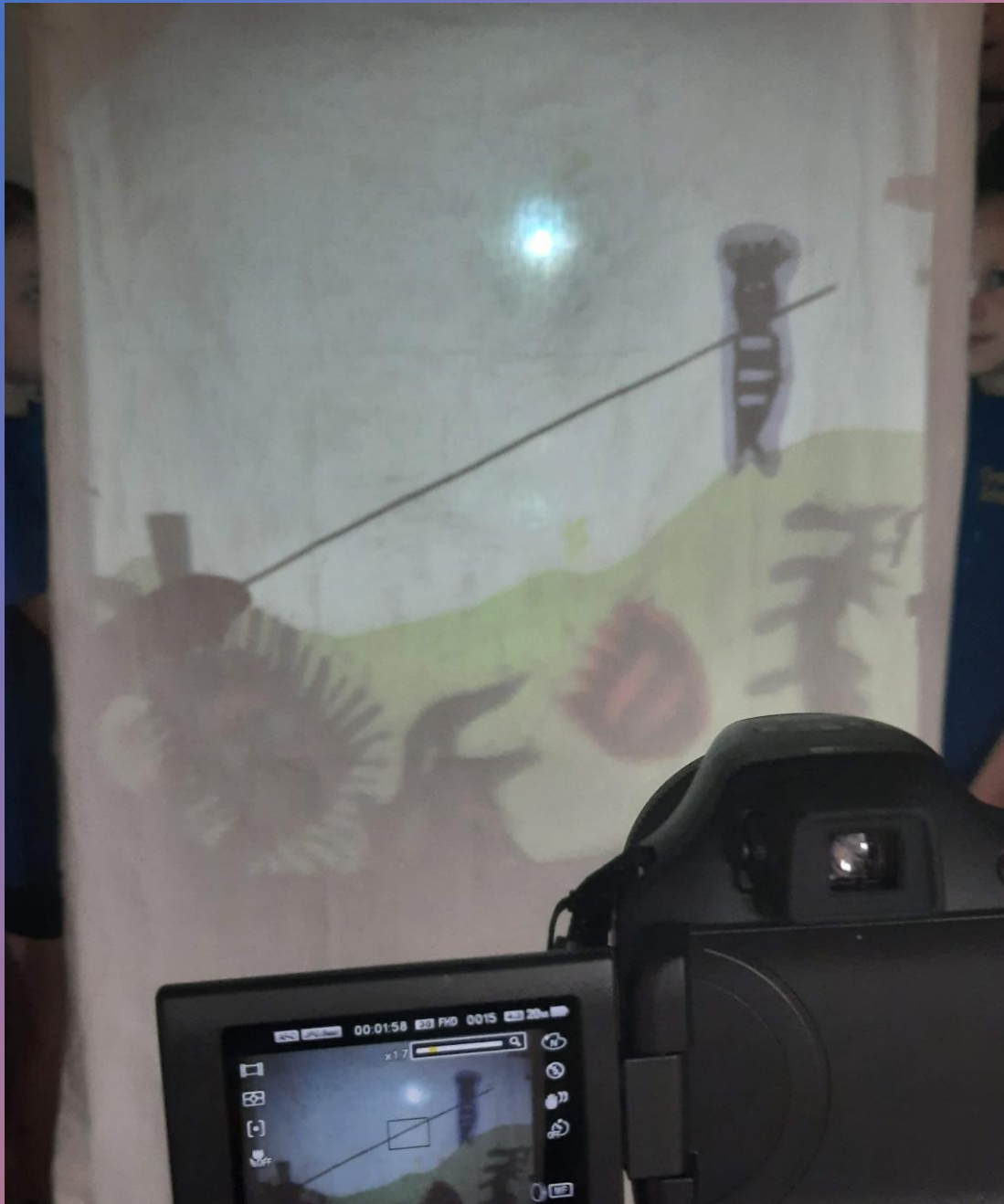
Music Creation

- As the project progressed, we decided to introduce a music element to it. As we were turning our shadow play into a film, we felt that an underscore was needed. The children worked with a professional musician using digital and recorded sound that was inspired by the sea creatures and elements of the story.
- Using music gives another way for the children to explore the topic. While we used digital music, this could be done with percussion or singing or popular music that can run live with the shadow play.

Filming

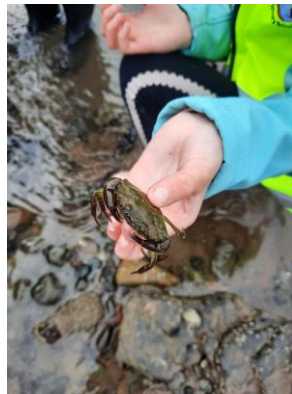
- An outcome of Sands of Time was to create a film of the shadows and story so we spent a couple of sessions on rehearsing the story and filming.
- A simple version of this is to record the children playing and interacting with their puppets, using an ipad or tablet. They can then watch back how the puppets work and refine their technique.
- If you would like to see our film you can watch it here:

https://youtu.be/KSIh-LT_F04



Celebration

- We celebrated our project by taking the classes to the beach to see the Honeycomb reefs they had learnt about and to have a fun day outside the classroom. We told the story, met puppets of the characters, created some beach art around our story and explored the rockpools.
- Other ways you could celebrate are by performing your shadow plays to each other or the school, creating an assembly on your project or having a visit to somewhere connected to your topic.





Summary

- By following the project breakdown you can create a creative arts project on any topic. The creative arts can be linked to many curriculum outcomes.



With Thanks to