



Inspire

CURRICULUM

Unit: The Potting Shed...Buried Treasure
Term: Spring 3
Year: 1



Unit Overview

Through this Unit, pupils will find out how we have so many beautiful plants growing in our local gardens through learning about plant hunter George Forrest. After he arrives in a time machine, the pupils will learn about his life and work, through looking at original photographs and other resources. The pupils will draw contrasts between the past and the present, by speaking to a modern day plant hunter.

The pupils' knowledge of what is growing in their area will deepen through local walks and a visit to a local garden. Pupils will name plants through using identification cards and develop skills such as observation, identification and asking and answering questions.

Alongside this exploration, the children will learn about another quest, through learning and performing "The Gingerbread Man".

The classroom should be set up as a storytelling area, the home of the little old man and old woman. Include character masks, the refrain and key vocabulary from the 'Gingerbread Man', laminated speech bubbles for the pupils to write on, shopping list pro forma, gingerbread recipe cards and balances.

Set up an outdoor role-play area as a Garden Centre where pupils can plant seeds and buy and sell plants. Provide whiteboards or clipboards, pencils to price plants, laminated pages from garden catalogues, pots, compost, seeds, plant labels and watering cans. Include plans of the school area and garden catalogues in the art/making area. Pupils could stick items on the plans to show what they would like to grow at school.

Pupils will be deciding how they would like to share what they have learned at the end of the Unit, so there may be planning for an audience, an assembly, an exhibition to organise in advance.



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Outdoor Learning

- In science pupils will learn the names of common plants, including garden plants, wild plants and trees, and those classified as deciduous and evergreen
- The pupils will visit a local garden, re-enacting plant hunter George Forrest's adventures and finding plants that have grown from seed that he collected



National and International Links

- Through learning about George Forrest, pupils will locate areas in the United Kingdom and China
- Pupils will identify places where different types of food grows



Links to the world of work

- Pupils will learn what it means to develop a passion for work, through discovering the hardship and setbacks George Forrest experienced and the recognition he gained
- A garden centre could be set up outdoors where pupils could plant and nurture seeds
- Agricultural areas of work; farming, plant nurseries, garden centres, floristry, forestry, landscaping and garden maintenance



Links to learning and life skills

- Understanding what it means to persevere



Resources

Music

- *The Gingerbread Man*: Niki Davies ISBN 978-1-906988-19-7 (Out of the Ark also produces musicals for other stories if you choose an alternative story to 'The Gingerbread Man') Pie Corbett version of 'The Gingerbread Man' available
- CD player, percussive instruments
- Pictures of the 'Gingerbread Man's' body parts, sequence of pictures to show the making of the 'Gingerbread Man'
- Rhythm and beat cards
- Pictures of nursery rhymes, IWB picture of the 'Gingerbread Man'

Science

- Images of plants, whiteboards and pens, plan/ map of school outdoor area (or woods if immediate access), camera, magnifying glasses: <http://www.naturedetectives.org.uk/> (Spring spotter, flower cards, flower pairs)
- *Once There Was A Seed*: Anderson and Gordon ISBN 978-0-7502-6683-3
- Seeds (flowers, cress, mustard seeds...), envelopes, seed packets, laminated simplified instructions, seedlings, compost, pots, bottles, gardening tools for small hands
- Flower and tree identification cards (file), texture word bank,
- Information books, *A Spring Thing* (Out of the Ark ISBN 9781901980950), *The World Came To My Place Today* (Eden Project books ISBN-10: 1903919029)

English

- *The Gingerbread Man*: Niki Davies ISBN 978-1-906988-19-7 (Out of the Ark also produces musicals for other stories if you choose an alternative story to 'The Gingerbread Man'.) Masks and props to retell the story. Alternatively choose a different version of 'The Gingerbread Man'.
- Story resources - story map and accompanying pictures. Boxing up and story vocabulary displayed. Pictures of the characters, comic strip proforma, lined paper, digital camera, CD version of the story, 'Wanted' poster and proformas, Phases 2 and 3 letter mats, writing targets, pencils, copies of the beginning of The Gingerbread Man text, tools for self-assessment/ marking, post-its, labelled farm and countryside animals on IWB, speech bubbles, blue fabric (river), picture of George Forrest, labels for natural materials, 3D art sculptures (Art 3/4), IWB pictures of wildlife in Yunnan and water creatures (file).
- Resources for making - ingredients and equipment for making gingerbread men, resources to make puppets/ characters - clay, Play-Doh, plasticine, paper/ card and sticks/ straws, collage materials, cake decorations and labels, paint.
- Pictures from 'We're going on a bear hunt', pictures of George Forrest's scenarios (file), thesaurus or word bank, plant poems.

Art and Design

- Felt-tip pens, pencils, crayons
- A3/A4 paper
- Gardening magazines/ catalogues, images from the internet, contact with a garden centre
- Van Gogh flowers in vases e.g. sunflowers, Irises, vase with daisies and poppies
- Paint, colour mixing prompts, plants in vases or pots,
- Literacy boxing up, jungle pictures
- George Forrest plant pictures (file)
- Natural resources found at local gardens, pieces of wood
- Tissue paper, clay, straws, pipe cleaners, grains and pasta etc, IWB images of plant sculptures (Google images)

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History

- Information has been gathered from the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and *George Forrest Plant Hunter* by Brenda McLean (2004) now out of print, information and images are also available on the internet - <http://www.plantexplorers.com/explorers/biographies/forrest/>.
- Main resource - leather case and resources in the attached file (RBGE photographs, set of letters, shopping list, advert, images of plants discovered, 'We're going on a plant hunt' proformas, signs for display at local garden, maps showing distribution of sponsors and Yunnan, photograph of silver ingots and Chinese passport, George Forrest time-line)
- Liaise with head gardener of a local garden who will identify George Forrest's plants (and maybe display signs before your visit). For mid-Cornwall schools, Caerhays Castle Gardens is a good resource (head gardener very helpful)
- Invite in a head gardener from a local garden (even better if he or she has travelled to collect seeds) dressed in usual gardening wear (for schools in mid-Cornwall, head gardener of Trewithen Gardens has visited Yunnan)
- Agree on resources to bring in rucksack - map/ plan of garden and area he (or she) has explored, tools used in his job, travel brochures, tickets and images of transport used for travel, passport, photographs of plants and locals, seedlings
- <http://www.geography.org.uk/eyprimary> - also useful for developing learning outdoors



Summaries

English

- Learn and retell the story of The Gingerbread Man using story maps and oral storytelling techniques. They will substitute the Gingerbread Man for another gingerbread character and then for a flower boy character (linked to history work on George Forrest).
- Write a poem based on George Forrest's experiences using the structure of 'We're Going On A Bear Hunt'
- Draw on information from history lessons to write a letter in the character of George Forrest, explaining to friends and family at home some of what he has seen and done on his travels.

Science

- Find out about what plants need and where they grow.
- Plant and care for fast growing seeds and observe using simple equipment.
- Name, describe and identify leaves, flowers and trees in the local environment and at a local

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Art and Design

- Draw pictures of plants from imagination and life.
- Make 3D sculptures using natural and other materials.

Music

- Learn and perform The Gingerbread Man.
- Find out about beat and rhythm.
- Linked songs and rhymes to growth of seeds, flowers and other plants.

Applied Maths

- On a nature walk, pupils keep count of leaves, flowers etc and compare to other pupils' totals.
- Using seed tray arrays, pupils explore counting in multiples of 2s, 5s and 10s.
- Pupils use compost, seeds, beans and bulbs to compare, describe and solve practical potting shed problems involving weighing and measuring.

History

- Find out about the intrepid plant hunter George Forrest and the impact he has made on gardens in the UK today.
- Read about and re-enact his expeditions in the 1900s and meet a modern-day plant hunter.
- Go on a plant hunt to find Forrest's plants at a local garden.

