

Rainbow Classroom Decoration Pack

Guidance Notes for Teachers

Bring some colour to your classroom with this global collection of rainbow themed decorations. Create multicultural discussion points with handcrafted items from Bali, Thailand and Nepal. Encourage a sense of individuality and pride for all pupils.



Contents:

- 1 x Rainbow Plaque
- 1 x Set of 7 Felt Hearts
- 1 x Croaking Frog Guiro
- 1 x Rainbow Duckling
- 1 x Rainbow Tie Dye Bunting
- 1 x Rainbow Flags
- 1 x Bright Rainbow Dreamcatcher
- 1 x String of Hearts Suncatcher
- 1 x Rainbow Suncatcher

Please note contents and designs may vary.



The items in the Rainbow Classroom Decoration Pack shown in the pictures on the left can be used in KS1 and KS2 classrooms.

- Create cross-curricular links and cover elements of the PSED, Art and Design, Music, RE and Geography curriculum.
- Use as starting points to discuss wellbeing and mental health.
- Celebrate pupils' individualities and uniqueness.
- Provide opportunity for discussion about Fair Trade products.
- Use the resources to create a rainbow themed area and to support themed days.
- Use suncatchers to explore light and refraction.

Activity 1 – Dreamcatchers

Dreamcatchers are believed to originate from the Ojibwa Native American tribe in the 1920s. The legend says that Asibikaashi, the Spider Woman, who protected the children from bad dreams, could not get to each child's bed every night, so the women of the tribe wove magic webs and hung them over their beds. Dreamcatchers are designed to look like spider webs and their purpose is to catch bad dreams. The feathers attached at the bottom act as a slide, enabling the good dreams to travel down to the sleeping child. The beads woven in symbolise the spider, the web weaver, and they act as charms to prevent good dreams being trapped.

- Use online resources and tutorials to create personalised dreamcatchers.
- Write down good dreams and share them.
- If the weather is suitable go on a spider web hunt.

Activity 2 – Circle Time

- Use the felt hearts as aids for a whole class circle time. Pupils can pass them around as an indicator for who is talking and who is listening.
- If pupils are happy to do so, encourage them to talk about their individuality.
- Make small heart shapes with messages of positivity on.

Activity 3 – Suncatchers

Suncatchers are believed to have been first made by Native American Indians and have spiritual and cultural significance. They are often used as symbols of personal beliefs and values. Some people believe that suncatchers take the energy from the sun and energize the area by spreading that light around in rainbow form.

- Create suncatchers – encourage pupils to choose a shape which is significant to them.
- Find shared places around the school to display suncatchers.
- Make a natural suncatcher by sticking fallen leaves to sheets of plastic.

Activity 4 – Rainbows

For many people rainbows symbolize hope, harmony and love. For some people they represent new beginnings and a promise of better things to come. For others it represents a connection to God. The Aboriginal people of Northern Queensland, Australia, see the rainbow as a snake that stops rain that has been made by their enemies. Ancient Greeks believed the rainbow was the visible form of Iris, goddess of the sea and sky.

- Use online resources to investigate rainbow imagery, myths and legends.
- Use a variety of materials to create rainbow art.
- Make rainbow bunting with positive messages on to decorate a shared space in the school.

Activity 5 – Rainbow Frog Guiro from Thailand

Share the Origin and Process notes included with this guidance.

- Introduce the guiro and demonstrate how to play – run the stick along the ridges on its back from rear to front to make it croak, or hit it on the head to make a 'pock' sound.
- Encourage the pupils to design and make their own percussion instrument.
- Design a rainbow animal.

➤ Product Origins

From Bali

Life is a Rainbow Plaque
Rainbow Duckling
Rainbow Tie Dye Bunting,
Rainbow Flags
Large Bright Rainbow Dreamcatcher
String of Hearts Suncatcher
Rainbow Suncatcher

From Nepal

Set of 7 Felt Hearts

From Thailand

Rainbow Croaking Frog Guiro

Pupils can:

1. Locate three places on a world map.
2. Create a fact file for each location.

➤ Fair Trade

Fair Trade is a worldwide movement that aims to help producers in less economically developed countries, whether they be handicraft producers or farmers. The term Fair Trade means that producers receive a fair price for the goods they produce.

Each item included in this pack can be a way to teach and learn about the principles of Fair Trade. Teaching the principles of Fair Trade provides learning opportunities in many areas of learning, including PSED, Understanding the World and Geography. The items have been sourced by a BAFTS recognised Fair Trade importer of 20 years. The suppliers of the items in this pack are small family businesses employing only a few people; we try to keep them in continuous work enabling their businesses to grow.

Explore further – What are the 10 Principles of Fair Trade? How does Fair Trade help producers? Research the many organisations around the world, including Fairtrade Foundation, the British Association for Fair Trade Shops and Suppliers (BAFTS) and World Fair Trade Organisation (WFTO).

Frog Guiro



Origin and Process Notes

A Fair Trade frog guiro, handmade in Northern Thailand from acacia wood. Run the stick along the ridges on its back from rear to front to make a deep croaking sounds or hit it on the head to make a 'pock' sound.

Read more about the frog's journey from start to finish!



These frog guiros are produced in the mountainous countryside outside the city of Chiang Mai in Northern Thailand. As woodcarving is no longer a big enough source of income to do exclusively, many of the woodcarvers also farm Longan fruit, a small, sweet and juicy lychee-like fruit. With many producers working from their homes, traditional carving tools can be spotted amongst their everyday items.



These frog guiros are made from acacia wood, used because of its sustainability as a fast-growing tree. One particular business has grown from strength to strength over the years and the owner has now built a large factory right next to his house and is now able to employ a large staff of carvers and painters – a perfect example of the Fair Trade way of working.



Firstly, the rough shape of each frog is carved out by hand before being carefully sanded down. The sawdust waste is then transported to be used as a base for growing mushrooms at a nearby farm! Next a drill is used to shape the central hole in the frog. Each frog is drilled and then given a quick tap on the head to see if it makes the desired 'thock' sound. If it is not quite right, it gets another go under the drill. If it passes the test, then they are given a final sand down inside and are taken to the large drying kiln.



The kiln is almost entirely fired by leftover chunks of wood from the manufacturing of the frogs and has been installed with a top of the range alarm system in case the fire gets too hot. Once the frogs have all been fully dried, they are ready to be stained and painted. The painters use a mixture of techniques depending on the desired finish. Some use a paint gun to spray them whilst others require more detailed hand painting with brushes. After painting the frogs are given a final quality control check and are then packaged up for sending out.

Can you spot the giant frog in this photo?

