

CASE STUDY

HOW HAS WALES INSPIRED PEOPLE?

The school in the Ystradgynlais area was encouraging learners to explore what 'cynefin' means to them and how artists make use of this in their work. This key activity supported the class in their studies and helped the teachers structure the activities undertaken by the learners.



Learners used Task 1 to help them consider how the outdoors helps with health and well-being. They particularly enjoyed being outside and recording the sights and sounds that showed where they felt they belonged and are reassuringly recognisable.

For example, they recorded...

- a crowd at a local rugby match
- the voice of the lollipop lady
- an ice cream van
- low flying RAF jets.

Learners were enthused by this task and were keen to spend time in the locality finding out from people why they liked being outdoors. The learners did not create a questionnaire as suggested in Task 2 but noted down a few simple ideas about what they wanted to ask people. They looked for people sitting or walking around the area and stopped people for an informal chat.

Learners did ask people for a quote about being outdoors and were keen to write their own quote to sum up their feelings about the importance of spending time outdoors.

Examples of quotes:

- 'I imagine I'm on an adventure'
- 'Freedom to explore'
- 'I can experience all that nature has to offer'
- 'Takes away the stress of daily life'.

The teachers did not make use of Task 3 but were keen to use Task 4 as they were able to visit Ystradgynlais where the artist Josef Herman had lived. Initially, learners explored the artwork of Josef Herman and in more depth paintings such as 'Evening, Ystradgynlais' and 'Pregnant woman with friend' as they showed parts of Ystradgynlais they might identify when they visited. They also researched street names, buildings, etc. associated with Herman and located, for example, Heol Giedd, the Pen-Y-Bont Inn and 'Teddy Bear' bridge when they visited Ystradgynlais.

After considering Josef Herman's cynefin, learners used their own ideas of cynefin from Task 1 and their research and visit to look at working people in their own locality. They were encouraged to talk to people and use these experiences to create a painting of local working people in the style of Josef Herman.

Using 'Two stars and a wish', learners considered success criteria and provided peer feedback to others in the class when paintings had been completed. This provided opportunities for learners to evidence the feedback and evaluation aspects of the 'Responding and reflecting, both as artist and audience, is a fundamental part of learning in the expressive Arts' strand of the Expressive Arts Area in Curriculum for Wales.