

Spoon Carving and Whittling

Key Stage 2-3



We can offer sessions for students in basic whittling and the making of spoons using traditional skills and tools.

These activities are rewarding and therapeutic for all as well as being slightly hypnotic. Students get great pleasure and satisfaction from this and it has proved particularly successful with more challenging pupils. In Scandinavia this is an activity which is included on the curriculum as a means of winding down and having the opportunity to link with natural materials.

A student working with us in the summer seemed very sceptical as to the worth of the exercise. 'What's the point of making a spoon when you can buy one in the shops for 60p?' She spent the next few hours working on a blank piece of hazel to produce a delicate, well carved spoon with which she was (reluctantly) very pleased.

The visit is organised on two levels.

1. Suitable for Year 5 upwards. Using traditional carving knives and crook knives from Sweden we will take the group through the various stages of spoon carving in green wood from roughing out to finishing the bowl.
2. Suitable for Years 3 & 4. An introduction to whittling where we use a safer option of tool with a protected edge suitable for this younger age. We start with basic whittling and then move on to producing spoon with our help in the final stages.

This activity has been risk assessed and copies are available for your records.

Timing

- Morning and afternoon sessions for up to 30 pupils per session

Requirements

- An outdoor space such as the corner of a school field or woodland area. (This can be done inside but is not so rewarding)



Programme

- Introduce tools and materials plus brief history of craft.
- Demonstrate techniques, safe handling of tools and how the different tools are used
- Supervise and guide students in practical work.
- Hopefully, admire results!

Meeting Curriculum Objectives

- Know the basic health and safety, hazards and risks when working with wood
- Understand how to care for and use the tools
- Experiment with different wood types, tools and techniques
- Evaluate the serviceability of products produced
- Appreciate and gain satisfaction from working with wood
- Work individually showing responsibility, reliability and perseverance

Costs

A full day working costs £200 plus travel and materials

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