

# **The Elephant Bridesmaid**

## **Education Pack**

by The People's Theatre Company

Nessie the elephant thinks the three Rs are important and with her help you too can have fun while you

**Reduce, Reuse and Recycle!**

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## About The People's Theatre Company

The People's Theatre Company was set up to make quality theatre accessible to everyone. Our award winning shows have played to sell out crowds up and down the country and each year the company brings that same standard of theatre into schools and youth groups.

To find out more about The People's Theatre Company, our free resources for schools and schools shows, visit our website at [www.ptc.org.uk](http://www.ptc.org.uk). You can also email us directly at [ptc@ptc.org.uk](mailto:ptc@ptc.org.uk)

### More Stuff For Schools

The PTC is committed to its audience of young people and as part of that commitment we want drama to be available to everybody. To that end we produce free resource packs, like this one, and are happy to provide schools and youth groups with affordable, quality drama training, PPA cover and specialised workshops or even visit you with one of our world class shows. If you would like details of any of these services please visit us at

[www.ptc.org.uk/Education](http://www.ptc.org.uk/Education)

or contact us at

[ptc@ptc.org.uk](mailto:ptc@ptc.org.uk).

## Introduction

Welcome to the education pack for *The Elephant Bridesmaid*, presented by the People's Theatre Company.

This pack is designed as a flexible resource for teachers of Key Stage 1. It has been prepared so that you can deliver lessons across the curriculum that will link in with the People's Theatre Company's show, *The Elephant Bridesmaid*.

You can use this free pack whether you come to see the show or not (although we'd love it if you did!). You are welcome to use as much or as little of the pack as you wish, choosing a one-off activity or using it as the basis for a cross-curricular exploration of the themes in *The Elephant Bridesmaid* with resources at the back of the pack.

The links to the Key Stage 1 National Curriculum are indicated at the start of each lesson although many will also be relevant to early Key Stage 2.

# Coverage of The National Curriculum

## En3 Writing

- 1.b. sequence events and recount them in appropriate detail
- 1.c. put their ideas into sentences
- 1.d. use a clear structure to organise their writing
- 1.e. vary their writing to suit the purpose and reader
- 1.f. use the texts they read as models for their own writing.
- 2.b. assemble and develop ideas on paper and on screen
- 2.c. plan and review their writing, discussing the quality of what is written
- 7.a. how word choice and order are crucial to meaning
- 9.d. to organise and explain information.
- 11. The range of readers for writing should include teachers, other adults, children and the writers themselves.

## Sc3 Materials and their properties

- 1.a. use their senses to explore and recognise the similarities and differences between materials
- 1.b. sort objects into groups on the basis of simple material properties
- 1.c. recognise and name common types of materials and recognise that some of them are found naturally
- 1.d. find out about the uses of a variety of materials and how these are chosen for specific uses on the basis of their simple properties

## Geography

- 5.b. recognising how the environment may be improved or sustained

## PSHE & Citizenship

- 2.a. to play an active role
- 2.g. what harms/improves the environment

## D&T

- 1.a. generate ideas by drawing on their own and other people's experiences
- 3.a. talk about their ideas, saying what they like and dislike

## Art and Design

- 2. b. try out tools and techniques and apply these to materials and processes, including drawing
- 3. a. review what they and others have done and say what they think and feel about it
- 4.b. materials and processes used in making art, craft and design

- 5.b. working on their own, and collaborating with others, on projects in two and three dimensions and on different scales
- 5.c. using a range of materials and processes [for example, painting, collage, print making, digital media, textiles, sculpture]

# Literacy

## Lesson 1

### En3 Writing

- 1.b. sequence events and recount them in appropriate detail
- 1.c. put their ideas into sentences
- 1.d. use a clear structure to organise their writing
- 1.e. vary their writing to suit the purpose and reader
- 1.f. use the texts they read as models for their own writing.

### Objective

To be able to retell the story through pictures and sentences.

### Introduction

In pairs, discuss the different ways they have experienced stories (books, picture books, orally, television, theatre etc). Share as a class, listing them on the board. In pairs again, what do they like about each one? Share as a class ensuring comic strips are discussed.

### Main activity

What are the features of a comic strip? (captions, illustrations, speech bubbles etc.) As a class, re cap on the story of The Elephant Bridesmaid using the synopsis on page 15 of the Resource section of this pack, recording it in the correct order on the board.

Children to create a comic strip of the story using the writing frames on page 19 of the Resource section of this pack.

### Plenary

In groups, share comic strips and check that everyone has the story in the correct order and have used some of the features of a comic strip. Recap on the key features of a comic strip.

# Literacy

## Lesson 2

### En3 Writing

- 1.d. use a clear structure to organise their writing
- 1.e. vary their writing to suit the purpose and reader
- 2.b. assemble and develop ideas on paper and on screen
- 2.c. plan and review their writing, discussing the quality of what is written
- 7.a. how word choice and order are crucial to meaning
- 9.d. to organise and explain information.
- 11. The range of readers for writing should include teachers, other adults, children and the writers themselves.

### Objective

To make a poster explaining how to reduce, reuse and recycle.

### Introduction

Nessie the elephant has a talent for making beautiful things out of what other people might throw away. Discuss how she does this by introducing the 3 Rs, reduce, reuse and recycle. Can you think of how and why they are important? How can we help the rest of the school to understand about reduce, reuse and recycle and to encourage them to use the 3 Rs rather than being wasteful.

### Main activity

What are the main features of an information poster? (Heading, short explanations/descriptions, pictures, diagrams, bright and colourful to be eye catching etc.) Show some examples. Children to create an information poster to explain the 3 Rs using Nessie as the 3Rs mascot.

### Plenary

Look at some of the children's posters and discuss the features of an information poster that have been used. How effective are the posters? Display the posters.



# Science

## Sc3 Materials and their properties

- 1.a. use their senses to explore and recognise the similarities and differences between materials
- 1.b. sort objects into groups on the basis of simple material properties
- 1.c. recognise and name common types of materials and recognise that some of them are found naturally
- 1.d. find out about the uses of a variety of materials and how these are chosen for specific uses on the basis of their simple properties

## Objective

To be able to sort objects according to the material they are made from.

## Introduction

Pass round the class different objects e.g. plastic bottle, food can. What is this? What is it made of? Why is it made of this? Discuss how suitable each material is. Why would I not use wood to make a drinking bottle? A glass bottle - what is good about it being made out of glass? Why might it be made out of plastic instead? Discuss properties of the objects, e.g. hard, soft, shiny, see through. Children to have a go at sorting some clean recycling. What criteria did they use?

## Main activity

Can anyone explain what recycling means? Discuss that some objects can be recycled, but others cannot. Look at the packaging and sort the materials into two hoops according to if it can be recycled or not. Children to create a collage, using pictures of different Materials / packaging, showing the things that you can/ can not recycle.

## Plenary

Children to share their collages. Show the children a microwave ready meal with cardboard sleeve. How would you group this?

Discuss that not all parts of packaging are recyclable and other parts would need to be go into different recycling bins.

## **PSHE and Citizenship**

PSHE & Citizenship

2.a. to play an active role

2.g. what harms/improves the environment

### **Objective**

To understand the meaning of reduce, reuse and recycle.

### **Introduction**

Show children a plastic carrier bag and discuss the problems with them. What are they made from? (oil, fossil fuel, finite resource, issues with oil spillages) How many are used each year? (17 million in the UK, enough to stretch to the moon and back 5 times!) Where do they end up and what happens to them there? (200 years to biodegrade) Remind children of the 3 Rs, reduce, reuse and recycle. How could this apply to carrier bags?

### **Main Activity**

Explain that they are going to make a carrier bag holder to use at home. Show the children a sample and discuss what it is made from. (Old shirt sleeve decorated with old fabrics)

### ***Prepare for the children before the lesson***

*Take a shirt sleeve from an adult's shirt and turn it inside out. With the cuff at the bottom create a hem at the top by folding over the fabric and gluing. Cut two slits to feed elastic through.*

Children to feed elastic through the hem using a closed safety pin to guide it through. Tie together and create a handle to carry/hang the shirt sleeve. Decorate the sleeve with bits of old fabrics and odds and ends.

### **Plenary**

Children to share their work. Discuss how the carrier bag holder is reducing waste, reusing the carrier bags and recycling the fabric.

## D&T

D&T

- 1.a. generate ideas by drawing on their own and other people's experiences
- 3.a. talk about their ideas, saying what they like and dislike

### Objective

To design a recycling bin.

### Introduction

Give every child a cleaned waste item. Ask them to move to one side of the room if the item can be recycled and another side of the room if it can't. Now give the children whose items can't be recycled a recyclable object and bring the class together again. Ask the children to sit in groups with children who they think would be in the same recycling bin as them.

### Main Activity

Do you or your parents find it difficult remembering what bin to put things into when you've finished with them? We can help by designing a new type of bin that would help with recycling. What do we think bins need to help us?

- bright so you can't miss them;
- large hole to put your rubbish in;
- strong and sturdy.
- Picture/symbol/word/shaped bin to show what goes in the bin

In mixed ability pairs, children to design a set of bins or a bin with sections for recycling.

### Plenary

Each pair are to join with another pair to evaluate the bins. They need to share their ideas and come up with 2 really good things and 1 thing that need some improvement for each bin/set of bins. Discuss how well the bins help people to recycle.



# Art

## Art and Design

2. b. try out tools and techniques and apply these to materials and processes, including drawing
3. a. review what they and others have done and say what they think and feel about it
4. b. materials and processes used in making art, craft and design
5. b. working on their own, and collaborating with others, on projects in two and three dimensions and on different scales
5. c. using a range of materials and processes [for example, painting, collage, print making, digital media, textiles, sculpture]

## Objective

To create a necklace/bracelet recycling paper material.

## Introduction

Show the children a range of magazines, brochures, catalogues and wrapping paper. What could we do with them as they are all old and no longer needed? What could we make with them? Explain that we are going to make beads for bracelets and necklaces for Nessie the elephant to wear with her bridesmaid dress.

## Main Activity

Cut colourful images from the waste papers into tall, skinny triangle shapes. The triangles should be about 2cms at the bottom and about 10cms tall. Wrap each triangle strip around a pencil. Start with the wide end (the base of the triangle). Put a dab of glue under the last 2cms or so of the triangle, press firmly and leave to dry. Repeat to make a selection of beads. When completed and dry, pull the pencil out of the beads and string with yarn or thread to create a necklace or bracelet. The beads can be varnished using a mixture of water and PVA to give a nice shiny finish.

## Plenary

Discuss how effective the necklaces and bracelets were at reusing the waste paper. Share everyone's beautiful jewellery. Do you think Nessie would like her new jewellery?

## Art

### Art and Design

2. b. try out tools and techniques and apply these to materials and processes, including drawing
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### Objective

To create a painting in an aboriginal style.

### Introduction

Show the children a range of aboriginal art. How do you think the paintings were made? Discuss the use of dots. What animals did we hear from in *The Elephant Bride*? Lorikeet, Wombat, Emu etc. Show pictures of each of the animals from the story. Explain to the children that Nessie the elephant would like to have pictures made of her friends to thank them for her beautiful dress. To that end the children are going to create portraits for her of each of her animal friends and do so in an aboriginal style. (These can then be used as part of a display of everything that was learnt from the play and the follow up work)

### Main Activity

Children to copy a picture of one of the animals from the play, use cotton buds to create the dots. Using brown paper will add to the aboriginal feel and mean that the white will stand out. Make sure the children use a different cotton bud for each colour!

## **Plenary**

Discuss how effective the paintings are. Do they look like aboriginal paintings? Do you think that Nessie's friends would like their portraits?

# Geography/ICT Game

Geography

5.b. recognising how the environment may be improved or sustained

## Objective

To be able to sort objects according to the material they are made from.

## Introduction

Recap what was covered in the Science and D&T lessons on what objects are made from, how we sort items and what recycling is.

## Main Activity

Help Barnaby Bear to sort the recycling into the correct bins.

[bbc.co.uk/schools/teachers/keystage\\_1/games/geography1](http://bbc.co.uk/schools/teachers/keystage_1/games/geography1)

## Plenary

Discuss how easy/hard it was to sort the items. Is it getting easier now that we are becoming experts in recycling?

## Key Stage 2

Explore Ollies World website, Ollie Recycles.

<http://www.olliesworld.com/uk/html/explore.html>



## The Elephant Bridesmaid

In the deepest part of the northern jungle there was once an elephant, who had made her way across the Indian Ocean from Africa to Australia, and now lived in a beautiful clearing under the shade of an Ebony tree. Or at least it would have been a beautiful clearing were it not for the fact that every spare inch of it was covered, three feet deep, in bits and bobs and odds and ends and all kinds of nonsense that was no use to anyone. Nessie the elephant you see was a hoarder, which meant she collected and kept all kinds of everything. It wasn't that she was a miser you understand. She wasn't greedy. Not one little bit. In fact she was terribly lovely and generous but, coming from a country as poor as Africa, she just couldn't bear the thought of anything going to waste and as a result her entire living area was crammed three feet deep with broken toys, shiny objects, worn out jumpers and odd socks.

More than a hoarder though, Nessie was an artist and an inventor and she could make all kinds of things out of all kinds of other things, like swings out of old tires or brooches out of old shells. She even made a lamp shade from an old plant pot she'd found.

"You just have to use your imagination and you can make something useful out of practically anything" explained Nessie to her friend Natalie Wombat.

"But what are you going to do with that sad looking broken xylophone, Nessie?" asked Natalie.

Nessie picked up a handy bit of rope and looping it through the xylophone she hung it up high in a tree where its sound rang through the forest with the sweetest song the little wombat had ever heard.

"A wind chime! Who'd have thought it possible?"

Just then Lucy Lorikeet appeared and explained that she was going to be marrying Kevin Kingfisher next week and as the only elephant in the whole of Australia she would like Nessie to be the guest of honour and chief bridesmaid at the wedding. Nessie was thrilled until she realised that she didn't have a pretty dress to wear and that there was nowhere in the forest that sold dresses big enough for elephants.

She decided to go and see Owl the tailor to see if he could make one in time. On the way she met Eric the echidna and Ermintrude the emu and they both wished her well.

Eventually Nessie arrived at Owl the tailor's house and explained to him that Lucy Lorikeet was getting married and she was going to be the chief bridesmaid but didn't have a dress. Owl showed Nessie some different dress styles to choose from and asked when she needed the dress by. Owl was shocked to hear that she needed it the following week!

"My dear, sweet Nessie, I don't know what I can do. I just don't have enough material, or enough time to order it in. I never normally make clothes for elephants, you see, because, well, to be quite frank...you're the only one I know."

Nessie was devastated and went off to be alone.

Owl didn't like to see Nessie so upset and got thinking about how he could make her a dress in time. So for one whole week Nessie remained hidden in the depths of the jungle crying and for one whole week Owl and his friends worked on his splendid idea.

Soon enough, it was the morning of Lucy the Lorikeet and Kevin Kingfisher's wedding and it was Lucy the Lorikeet herself who flew to where Nessie lay weeping and, tapping her gently on the shoulder, introduced her to the most lovely surprise that any elephant had ever had. For there, flanked by the hundreds of creatures who had helped make it, was the most incredible dress she had ever seen. It was made from more than a thousand pieces of cloth of over a hundred different colours. Its neckline was decorated with coins polished to shiny perfection by the river, each hem was sewn together with a pretty marble and its cuffs were made magical by antique sequins that shimmered like diamonds in the warm sunlight of the forest dawn. It was magnificent!

"How did you do it?" asked Nessie, choking back tears of quite a different sort to those she had been crying for the past week.

"Come see for yourself." said Natalie Wombat excitedly and with that she scurried off in the direction of the ebony tree and Nessie's jungle clearing home.

But it wasn't the home Nessie remembered at all. Something was different. Something was missing. Something that used to cover every square inch of it to a depth of about three feet in fact. And just as Nessie was about to ask where it had all gone, a pair of lyrebirds glided down and lovingly placed an oven shrunk crisp packet brooch on her chest. Then a group of pelicans flew in with a mirror they had made from pieces of broken glass, spare car parts and discarded aluminium foil and held it up so that Nessie could catch sight of herself in its reflection. And that was when she realized. Her beautiful dress and all its accessories had been made from all the wonderful things she had collected and saved for so long.

"You see," said Owl wisely, " you always said someone would find a use for your stuff and it seems you were right!" And what's more you look absolutely perfect for Lucy's wedding."

## Resources

### Additional Activity Ideas

- The Elephant Bridesmaid fashion show - in pairs or groups decorate large white bin bags with odds and ends to create a bridesmaid dress for Nessie. Cut holes for the head and arms. Put on a fashion show of the fabulous bridesmaid dresses.
  
- Enjoy some good old fashioned junk modelling.
  
- Make some masks like the ones seen in the production.

### Additional Resources

- [recyclenow.com/schools](http://recyclenow.com/schools)
  
- [bbc.co.uk/schools/teachers/keystage\\_1/games/geography1.shtml](http://bbc.co.uk/schools/teachers/keystage_1/games/geography1.shtml)  
Barnaby Bear Recycling game
  
- [http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/guides/lesson\\_plan\\_mad\\_about\\_rain0.pdf](http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/guides/lesson_plan_mad_about_rain0.pdf) Friends of the Earth
  
- <http://kids.niehs.nih.gov/explore/reduce/>
  
- <http://www.olliesworld.com/uk/html/explore.html>

**Book**

M&S books featuring Emily Button and her two little friends Bobble and Mousey. They are about a doll made from odds and ends who collects bits and bobs in her pocket that become helpful to her friends, just like *The Elephant Bridesmaid*.

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