

House on the Shore Activity

Activity Outline

Take group onto the beach as the tide is coming. At Lepe this worked best as the tide is covering the lower beach and houses are built at the start of the sloping beach.

In small groups pupils must build a house on the beach using wooden blocks – all groups must build them along a line to make it fair as the tide comes in. The house can be as elaborate or simple as they want – the more time taken building a house, the less time they have for defences and vice versa.

Using the sea defence items they must defend the house from the rising tide eg). build groyne out of bamboo sticks, use coving to deflect waves and sand bags to sure up the building and decrease the power of the waves. Other items from the beach can be used – mound up sand, create a moat, use driftwood and seaweed for further defence work.

As waves start to meet the defences time is called and all groups must stop and retreat further up the beach to watch what happens. Staff collect items as they wash away and lead discussions on best designs. The winning group is the last house standing.

Resources stored at Lepe

- Wooden building blocks for 8 teams - look into making more for larger groups, is there a lighter alternative?
- Polystyrene coving – look into making more from environmentally friendly materials – drain pipe?
- Sand bags – too big and take too much time to fill, try to find smaller draw string nets (washing tablet nets)
- Bamboo sticks – look for turf surround which can be cut into small strips for groyne
- Throw bags and first aid kits



3 well defended houses and an elaborate house with little to stop the sea



A ranger mans the shallows and chats about which house is doing well. The defences hold up well, even as the waves go round making an island....until they finally collapse.



Risk Assessment

With Control measures in place, risk level to staff and pupils for these activities is Low

Sara Wareham 23/1/11

Ranger may cancel or change sessions in severe weather conditions.

All Lepe staff are 1st Aiders, have Open Country qualification and are CRB checked.

Possible Risks	Control Measures	Notes
Drowning	No children in water, teacher nominated to watch for paddlers, move up the beach as the tide comes in, throw bag carried	Worked well with 1 ranger in wellies in the water facing the groups
Traffic accident	Controlled road crossing, use walkway through car park and avoid crossing by entrance.	Park usually quiet on week days. If taking pupils along to look at sea defences watch out for traffic along the road as footpath can be narrow.
Lost child	Regular head counts, keep group between 1 set of groynes, if busy use cones to mark a section of the beach.	Public access site so need to be mindful of other users
Cuts, scrapes, infections, bites	Site check prior to visit, litter pick section of beach, 1 st aid kits carried, hand washing available, ensure no stone throwing as working close together with ranger in water.	Send all pupils to wash hands after activity. Best part of beach for activity is open to dog walkers all year – ask walkers to keep dogs on leads if they're not under control.

Safety details:

Lepe Park Office: 023 8089 9108

Address: Lepe Country Park, Lepe, Exbury, Southampton, SO45 1AD.

Grid Ref: SZ456985

Example Lesson Plan

Learning Objectives

Investigate the effects of the sea and storms on the shore and ways we protect land for living, recreation and wildlife interests.

Opportunities for

Primary Curriculum	Learning skills
Unit 4 going to the seaside Unit 13 contrasting localities Unit 14 investigating rivers Unit 23 investigating coasts Unit 25 geography and numbers Sc 2e forces and movement Sc 3d rocks and soils	Group work Assessing risk Communication Problem solving Creativity

Starter: Introduction to Lepe – sense of place, what we will do, what do you think you will find, what risks are there.

Main: Investigate the power of the sea and weather and measure its effects on the shore. Complete one or more field sketches on sea defences, spit, river valley, exposed cliffs. Build house on shore and defend from incoming tide.

Review: Recap on key words, discuss options for the future of the park and towns, questions and answers.

Expectations

Most children will – be able to take an environmental measurement, use a range of geographical terms with help, name some environmental factors and know their effects, complete a field sketch with assistance, build a house and defences and describe what they have done and why.

Some children will have progressed further and will – understand and predict some future problems along the coast, draw field sketches unaided, use a range of geographical terms, evaluate their house and defences and discuss other solutions.

Additional Activities

These activities can be built into this session as extension tasks at Lepe or in the classroom:

- use previous costings of sea defences at Lepe to look at costs and benefits.
- have a budget for the house on the shore activity so groups have to buy the defences.
- watch the Lepe Storm PowerPoint to see the extreme effects of a storm.
- use maps with contours to see where would be effected by a 1m sea level rise.
- discuss and draw future of the park facilities.
- role play of different park visitors and how they are affected.

Resources

Field sketches, compass, anemometer, thermometer, measuring tape.

House on the shore: wooden blocks, bamboo sticks, coving, sand bags.