



# Engaging Places

A resource to support teaching and learning through buildings and places



## Newspaper Stories, by Rob Deane, Oak Hill School

Curriculum subject/s	English
Key stage/s	KS2
Curriculum outcomes	En3 Knowledge, skills and understanding 1e, 2d. Breadth of study 9a.
Lesson objectives	Pupils can write a newspaper article. Pupils learn the history of a building.

**Many buildings have interesting histories. Some of the stories about them are part of our history. In this lesson pupils will write a newspaper story about a significant event in the life of a building. Examples you could use: the fire at Windsor Castle, the bombing of Coventry Cathedral – or you could choose a number of battles that have happened around castles. If possible, link this activity to a history project.**

My selection was the fire at Weston-super-Mare pier, because many of the pupils and myself actually witnessed the event. Dramatic images were available on the internet. It not only made a dramatic news story but enabled pupils to do a follow-up story of the fantastic rebuild.

### Starter

- Share objectives. Ask pupils what a good newspaper story needs. Put these on the board. Headline, introduction, and the what, where, when and how of the story. Think about witnesses. Look for proper paragraph structure and use of columns. (5)
- Ask pupils to decide on success criteria. (5)

### Main

- Introduce the main task. (5)
- To help focus pupils you could give them a particular building they know which has a story to tell or they could do their own research (more time needed). Tell them they must describe the building using the correct vocabulary (you may need to give a word bank to help). (5)
- Pupils to plan and write their stories. Let them decide how they are going to arrange their article. (30)

## **Just around the corner**

An actual trip to a building they are to write about would inspire pupils. Get them to sketch it or take photographs to include in their article.

## **Plenary**

- Pupils read out their stories to the class. Peer assessment. (10)

## **Homework**

In class, look at the story of the fire at Weston-super-Mare pier as another example of a building with a dramatic story. Ask pupils to design their idea of a great pier. Give them an opportunity to look at the designs for the new pier at Weston-super-Mare on the internet.

## **Assessment for learning**

Formative:

Pupils decide success criteria.

Summative:

Mark newspaper articles.

## **Resources**

- Images – search Google images for Weston-super-Mare pier fire.

## **Cross-curricular links**

ICT: On line research and word processing.

Personal, learning and thinking skills: Organising own work.

This resource is from a bank of resources created for Engaging Places by practising teachers and education professionals. If you have ideas for using buildings and places in teaching and learning, and would like to help us create further resources, please email: [engagingplaces@cabe.org.uk](mailto:engagingplaces@cabe.org.uk)