

HISTORY learning springboards

Pappus

Stone + Iron Age hunter gatherer: Forage plants – KS2

Research use of plants to support everyday life in this era

Aim: To know what plants people foraged for in the past

Resources:

- Pappus fact sheets
- Internet research
- Foraged plants from the school grounds or locality

Activity springboards:

- Forage foods – find edible fruits, nuts and leaves in the school grounds – spring and summer are the best times to do this.
- Grow, harvest and grind grain. Experience the beginning of agriculture by growing a small patch of wheat. Harvest it and winnow it in the wind. Grind the resulting grains in a pestle and mortar. You will need to add this to a bag of wholemeal flour to get enough for pupils to use to bake their own bread or make pastry.
- Explore the practical uses of plants with the *Pappus* Plant ID Sheets.
- Stone Age people collected birch tree sap and boiled it to make a glue. They used the glue to fix a stone wedge in a stick to make a hatchet. In the Middle Ages, some hunters still used this glue, which was called "pitch", to coat birch trees. When birds landed, they became stuck and could be caught, cooked and eaten!

More springboards:

- *Pappus* Plant ID Sheets: Blackberry (edible fruits); Grasses, especially cereals like oats, commonly used in early agriculture; Hazel (edible nuts and construction; Ash (timber); Nettle (cordage); Dog Rose (vitamin C); Oak (tannins for leather work).

Key vocabulary:

Pitch, forage

Success criteria:

- ✓ I can use research skills to help me understand what plants people foraged for in the past
- ✓ I am able to identify what evidence we have to support our understanding today of what people ate in the past

Anglo Saxons – KS2

Plants as construction materials

Aim: To construct an Anglo-Saxon model village from wattle and daub

Resources:

- *Pappus* Plant ID Sheets – Ash, Hazel, and Nettle
- Hazel rods (or similar)
- Clay, straw, hair, grass, natural wool

Refer to the *Pappus* Plant ID sheets and internet / library research to find information such as the following uses of plants in everyday life;

- For building materials in homes as walls, as boundary markers, for fires.
- For making buckets and the bowls people ate from.
- Trees for timber included ash, elm and yew which were familiar and plentiful.
- Spinning and weaving: linen from flax, straw for roofs and nettles for rope.
- Anglo-Saxon remedies are reflected in plant names that indicate their uses – for example, bonewort (which we know as pansy).

Activity:

- Research how wattle and daub was used. Experiment with hazel cut from the grounds or sourced locally to make simple woven walls and cover them with daub made from clay/earth/sand mix – get pupils to dig clay from your site if you are in the right area for this!
- Experiment and evaluate different amounts of each ingredient and the strengthening materials for the daub, such as hair, grasses, straw etc.

More springboards:

- Learning Springboards for Design Technology; Joining Materials and Grow you own craft resources.
- Nettle Playful Springboard for instructions on making nettle cordage

Key vocabulary: wattle and daub

Success criteria:

- ✓ I can explain why houses were made of wattle and daub
- ✓ I can describe how to make a wattle and daub structure

