

LITERACY learning springboards

Pappus

Interview with a tree – presentation

Using information gained from non-fiction text

Aim: Plan a brief 'interview' presentation with a tree/ plant.

This could be a follow-on exercise after the Visualisation activity. Pupils work in pairs, one member of the team taking the role of interviewer, and another team member being the plant.

Activity:

Plan and present an interview to the class, using both the knowledge from the *Pappus* Plant ID sheets and the thoughts that came during the relaxation exercise in the Visualisation Learning Springboard. Here is an example.

Interview with a [insert name] tree:

Thank you, [insert name], for participating in the interview and allowing me to ask you some questions.

- How old are you?
- Where do you like to live?
- What can you see/hear/feel?
- Who depends on you?
- What is your superpower?
- What are you particularly proud of?
- What memorable historical events have you seen during your life?
- What else do you want to tell us about yourself?



More springboards:

- Non-Fiction Text / Visualisation

Success criteria:

- ✓ I can prepare questions to ask in an interview to get the information that I need
- ✓ I can put myself in the 'shoes' of a living plant/ tree and imagine its life

Story starter and history

Using a remarkable image as a springboard for a story

Aim: Find out how old trees can live and how they develop over time. Using this stimulus to develop a story with an historical connection.

This particular tree is known as The Ashbrittle Yew (*Taxus baccata*), and is believed to be 3,000 years old, which would mean it was a mature tree when Stonehenge was in use. Ashbrittle is on the Somerset / Devon border, and the tree is in a village churchyard, although the original site was a Bronze Age burial ground. The tree has split into seven trunks, forming a circle as you can see, with a circumference of 42m

Activity:

Develop a story with this tree as a central character – of if you have a significant or famous local tree, use that as your springboard.

What could the tree have witnessed living for 3,000 years in a small village?

How might the space within the Ashbrittle Yew have been used in days gone by? A sacred gathering place perhaps? A shelter or hiding place? As a playspace for young children? Dens for animals?



Success criteria:

- ✓ I can use historical research facts to know what events were happening at a given time
- ✓ I know how long trees live for and I can explain how they develop over time

Resources:

- *Pappus* Yew ID sheet – or other tree ID sheets if you are using a different species as your springboard for writing.
- The image above can be downloaded from the *Pappus* website resource page.

