

Activity 5

Hand-made

Aim

This activity is designed to encourage reflection on what makes hand-made objects special. People taking part can share what they have made before or would like to create in the future. This enables connections to be made between the group's hobbies and interests and encourages taking notice of small but significant details in everyday life.

Activity



Watch this film by Sam Hanna, who narrates a story of his working life, from his training as a craftsman and teacher through to his filmmaking. Hanna works on a cabriole leg and shows examples of furniture he has made in his home. Footage in the film spans the 1940s, 1950s and was compiled in 1974.



Click the link or scan the QR code to play the short film
<https://vimeo.com/showcase/11156932/video/944825610>



Discuss Have you seen an ornate or special hand-made object recently? How could you tell it had been made by hand? What kind of skills were used to make them? If you don't have a recent example, you can look around the room you are in or use items made in the film to discuss.



Look at the photograph opposite from construction of the Great Hall of Manchester Central library in the 1930s. The Great Hall was illuminated partly by natural light and partly by a circle of Art Deco style lights. Architect, Vincent E. Harris, designed this wrought iron structure over the counter, with green pillars, topped by a clock.



Activity



Discuss What different skills are being used by the people in the photograph? Can you see what they are constructing?



Think about what you have made before. This could be anything using your hands, for example: rag rug, engineering model, item of furniture, a pot, drawing, a garden border.



Make a model out of dough or clay that represents the hand-made item. As you squeeze and mould the material think about how you move your hands to create, did you use your hands to originally make your hand-made object? Perhaps you used your voice or your feet.



Discuss Go around the group, telling each other what you've shaped the modelling clay into and explain when, where and why you made it. Are there any surprising items? Are they still made in this way? Is there anything you would like to learn how to make?

What you will need:

Modelling clay, plasticine or play dough

5 Ways of Wellbeing



- Connect
- Be active
- Take notice
- Learn
- Give

Activity 5

When running the activity you may find it useful to print out this larger version of the activity image.

