Meet the Barn Mini Books

We have converted most of the information in the Meet the Barn activity into minibooks. We often use these minibooks to inspire writers who don’t like writing too much - take a look at our Wombat Diaries activity in the Literacy section. We have included a blank minibook template for your budding historians and instructions on the folding and cutting of the books.

Last updated 6th February 2019

Collaborative Learning = Oracy in Context
makes challenging curriculum accessible.
improves social relations in the classroom.
provides scaffolding for exploratory talk.

Basic principles:
1. Build on prior knowledge.
2. Move from concrete to abstract.
3. Ensure everyone works with everyone else.
4. Extend social language into curriculum language.
5. Provide motivating ways to go over the same knowledge more than once.

If you can’t talk it, you won’t be able to write it!

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING PROJECT
Project Director: Stuart Scott
We support a network of teaching professionals to develop and disseminate accessible talk-for-learning activities in all subject areas and for all ages.
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Purlins

You can see us purlins very clearly in this picture. We are long straight timbers that run from one end of the barn to the other. There are six of us altogether. We are made of straight oak logs. The hewers have made us square and the joiners have linked the logs together. We have an important job to keep the rafters strong and straight.

Buttresses

Here you can see six of us! We have an important job to stop the heavy roof from pushing the walls outwards. We have done a good job for over seven hundred years! Look inside the barn and you can see we are lined up with the cruck blades.

Stone Roof Tiles

I am a forest marble roof tile. I am made of the hardest limestone in Bradford. There are many thousand of us on the roof and all together we weigh 100 tons. The smallest tiles are at the top of the roof and the biggest down at the eaves.

Meet the Parts of the Bradford on Avon Barn.

Page 1

Joints

Meet the Parts of the Bradford on Avon Barn.

Page 2

Windbraces

We windbraces make the joints between the upright and the horizontal timbers much stronger. We are made with curved timber and have been cleaved with an axe.

Page 3

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Page 4

Stone Roof Tiles

Hole for the oak peg is at the top.

Page 5

Battens

We are long narrow strips made of cleft oak. We lie across the rafters and are fixed with pegs. A peg is fixed in each of the stone tiles and they are hooked over us.

Page 6

Meet the Parts of the Bradford on Avon Barn.

Page 7

1. Cut off the margins along the dotted lines.

2. Fold along all the other dotted lines. Try to make your fold lines very accurate and bend the folds in both directions.

3. Unfold the paper and then refold it along lines C to D.

4. Cut the dotted line A to B and unfold again.

5. First fold line E to F, then push the ends to open the cut piece and shape into a book. Check the page numbers!
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Meet the Parts of the Bradford on Avon Barn.
Meet the Builders of the Bradford on Avon Barn

Ropemakers

The barn builders need a lot of rope. They tie the wooden scaffolding together with rope. The great wheel needs rope to wind around its pulley and the big pincers for lifting stones is attached to a rope. I make rope by twisting and twisting hemp and bast strands together until I have a thick strong rope.

Page 7

Carpenters and Joiners

You can see us here sawing a joint in a beam. We are using a big frame saw which needs two people. This barn is full of joints so we will be very busy. The green oak is soft and easy to work. We lay the beams on the ground and join them with pegs. Then they are hoisted into place.

Page 6

Masons

We are masons and you can see our most important tools. One of us is using a set square to make certain the stone is square. One of us is using a mallet and chisel to shape the stone. We can also saw the Bradford stone because it is not too hard.

Page 5

Abbess

My name is Dionisia la Blunde and I have been Abbess of Shaftesbury since 1329. I am planning to build a new barn of Bradford since 1299. I am responsible for the building of the stone. I have been Abbess of Shaftesbury for many years and I look after all the monasteries of the Abbey of Shaftesbury.

Page 2

High Steward

I look after all the monasteries of the Abbey of Shaftesbury. Bradford is our biggest monastary with forty two hides. At the moment I am arranging the building of a great barn to store our grain and wool. I ride to Bradford every two weeks to check progress and make sure that the work is going well. The Abbey has forty two hides of land and there are plenty of men at the building of the barn for the lifting of the stone. I work in the stone quarry and on the site so I can find out for myself what is happening. All the builders have their own mark and they make sure that they get paid for their work.

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High Steward

I look after all the monasteries of the Abbey of Shaftesbury. Bradford is our biggest monastary with forty two hides. At the moment I am arranging the building of a great barn to store our grain and wool. I ride to Bradford every two weeks to check progress and pay the masons and carpenters.

Page 3

Master Mason

I work in the stone quarry and on the building site. I select the stone and supervise its cutting and shaping. All my masans have their own mark to put on their stones. I check their stones and make sure that they get paid for their work. You can find some of their marks on the stones of the barn.

Page 1

Forest Keeper

I look after the Manor of Bradford forest. The Abbess of Shaftesbury wants to build a great barn here and I am looking for good oak trees. I need six or seven large curved trees to make crucks but can only find three. This means more work for the joiners because we will have to cut smaller trees. I look after the Manor of Bradford forest and I look after all the monasteries of the Abbey of Shaftesbury.

Page 4

Meet the Builders of the Bradford on Avon Barn

Book One
Carter  

Horses are better company than oxen and also more obedient. They also move more quickly. They respond to my lightest touch. We have been spending the last week carrying wheat from the fields, across the packhorse bridge to the old barn. The new great barn is rising quickly and will be ready next year. Tomorrow I will carry brushwood to the lime kiln.

Page 5

Lime Burner  

I burn limestone in a kiln to make quicklime. This is mixed with sand, clay and water to make mortar. Mortar sticks all the stones in the barn together, so I have a very important job. I have to be careful because lime smoke can kill and quicklime can burn you.

Page 6

Oxdriver  

Oxen are stronger than horses. Usually my oxen pull a plough, but at the moment I am pulling hewn beams out of the woods for the new great barn. The sawyers have nearly split the cruck blades so we shall be pulling them to the site next. Last month my oxen pulled loads of heavy dressed stone down from the quarry. This new barn is going to be very big and will use hundreds of trees.

Page 7

Meet the Builders of the Bradford on Avon Barn  

Book Two
Meet the Tools and Materials that made Bradford on Avon Barn

**Page 1**

There are wooden pulleys to reduce steady and another winds a windlass to lift up. One man holds the stone pincers to hold a stone they want pincers to hold a stone they want.

**Page 2**

The builder needs to know that his wall is going straight up. Sometimes your eyes play tricks, but the plumb line always stays vertical. Bricklayers still use them.

**Page 3**

Carefully at the stones you can see sawmarks. If you look closely at the stones you can see sawmarks. Hewers use it to turn round logs into square beams. It can cleave wood along the grain. A smaller version of this axe can make pegs and shingles. A shingle is a wooden tile.

**Page 4**

Pulleys are set of wheels that make lifting heavy objects much easier. Here some builders are using two pulleys to lift stone or mortar up to the top of a tower.

**Page 5**

Pincers

This stone mason is using a mallet and a chisel to shape the building stone. Another mason is holding a set square to make sure the stone is square. Carpenters use chisels to make holes in timber posts to make joints.

**Page 6**

Stone Saw

This special saw is made to cut stone. Bradford limestone is not very hard so can be cut with a saw. If you look closely at the stones you can see sawmarks.

**Page 7**

Plumb Line

The builder needs to know that his wall is going straight up. Sometimes your eyes play tricks, but the plumb line always stays vertical. Bricklayers still use them.
Meet the Tools and Materials that made the Bradford on Avon Barn

**Pitsaw**
A pitsaw needs two sawyers; one above and one down in the pit. The sawyer in the pit pulls the saw down and gets covered in sawdust. The top sawyer pulls the saw up. Sawyers can cut straight planks from a wooden beam with this saw.

**Saw**
This saw is smaller than a pitsaw but does the same job when the wooden beams are not too large. It can be used for making rafters or windbraces.

**Felling Axe**
A felling axe was used to chop down trees. The first notch was made in the side where the tree feller wanted the tree to fall, and the second notch was made opposite the first to mark the side of the tree that was going to fall. The feller pulled the saw down through the notch, and the tree slowly fell.

**Mallet**
Carpenters and joiners use a mallet to hit their chisels when they make a hole in a timber post. Stonemasons use a mallet to hit their chisels when they make a hole in a timber post. You can find us where two timbers meet. Here we hold the joint of two timbers together. We are also used to hit the timbers together. We hold the timbers together. We are also used to hit the timbers.

**Set Square**
This set square helps builders make sure that their beams and stones are level and straight and that their corners are square. It is used with the plumb line.

**Cleft Oak Pegs**
We may be small, but we do one of the most important jobs in the barn. You can find us where two timbers meet. Here we hold the joint of two timbers. We are also used to fix the stone tiles on to the battens. We are made from oak logs that have been cleft with a froe or small axe.

**Froe**
Small axe.

**Lime Mortar**
I am a mixture of prepared lime and sand. I do an important job. I provide the seal between the stones and the stone tiles so that my building is water and windproof.