Meet the Barn



We are Carpenters and Joiners

I'm the Great Wheel Walker



Come and meet all of us and find out how the Great Barn was built!

I'm a Mortar Maker and Builder





Meet the Barn

This activity consists of mini biographies of parts of the barn and tools (that have been granted the power of talk) and people related to the building of the barn. These are draft descriptions and we will in some cases seek out more information. We are currently reading up the role of women who did nearly all of these jobs as well as men and will give the characters names.

While searching for pictures we found a lot of information on a site about a medieval castle being built in France using only medieval techniques. They have already been building since 1997 and hope to finish in 2025.

Go to:

http://www.guedelon.fr/en/

to discover videos and images which give a very clear idea about how the barn was built except that their stone is much harder to work than the Bradford limestone. There are also lots of videos of medieval building processes like charcoal and lime burning on the net. They currently have a selection of videos about how the oak trees are turned into rafters and purlins.

The webaddress for this activity is: <http://www.collaborativelearning.org/meetthebarn.pdf>

This is one way among many of using these biographies. Every pupil in the class gets a card (or two or three depending on your pupils) to read and then present themselves in role to another pupil. It's very good for their language development to only glance at the card if they get stuck when they present. Then the pair of pupils can introduce each other to two more pupils and vice versa. In this way they meet a variety of items/people and can begin to make links.

If the role play on parts of the barn is done before a visit, then the pupil with the 'purlin' card could research their part during a visit and become an expert to share their research later with other members of their class.

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Last updated 25th January 2019 Collaborative Learning = Oracy in Context makes challenging curriculum accessible. improves social relations in the classroom. provides scaffolding for exploratory talk.

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. 17, Barford Street, Islington, London NI OQB UK Phone: 0044 (0)20 7226 8885 Website: http://www.collaborativelearning.org

BRIEF SUMMARY OF BASIC PRINCIPLES BEHIND OUR TEACHING ACTIVITIES:

The project is a teacher network, and a non-profit making educational trust. Our main aim is to develop and disseminate classroom tested examples of effective group strategies that promote talk across all phases and subjects. We hope they will inspire you to develop and use similar strategies in other topics and curriculum areas. We want to encourage you to change them and adapt them to your classroom and students. We run teacher workshops, swapshops and conferences worldwide. The project posts online many activities in all subject areas. Our online newsletter is also updated regularly.

*These activities are influenced by current thinking about the role of language in learning. They are designed to help children learn through talk and active learning in small groups. They work best in non selective classes where children in need of language or learning support are integrated. They are well suited for the development of speaking and listening . They provide teachers opportunities for assessment of speaking and listening.

*They support differentiation by placing a high value on what children can offer to each other on a particular topic, and also give children the chance to respect each other's views and formulate shared opinions which they can disseminate to peers. By helping them to take ideas and abstract concepts, discuss, paraphrase and move them about physically, they help to develop thinking skills.

*They give children the opportunity to participate in their own words and language in their own time without pressure. Many activities can be tried out in pupils' first languages and afterwards in English. A growing number of activities are available in more than one language, not translated, but mixed, so that you may need more than one language to complete the activity.

*They encourage study skills in context, and should therefore be used with a range of appropriate information books which are preferably within reach in the classroom.

*They are generally adaptable over a wide age range because children can bring their own knowledge to an activity and refer to books at an appropriate level. The activities work like catalysts.

*All project activities were planned and developed by teachers working together, and the main reason they are disseminated is to encourage teachers to work more effectively with each other inside and outside the classroom. They have made it possible for mainstream and language and learning support teachers to share an equal role in curriculum delivery. They should be adapted to local conditions. In order to help us keep pace with curriculum changes, please send any new or revised activities back to the project, so that we can add them to our lists of materials.

Meet the Barn Role Play

21 People:

Abbess Carpenter Carter Charcoal Burner Forest Keeper Great Wheel Walker Labourer Hewer High Steward Lime Burner Oxdriver Mason Master Builder Master Mason Mortar Maker Pegmaker Quarryman Rope Maker Sawyer Smith Tree Feller

11 Parts of the Barn:

Buttress Cruck Blades Limestone Mortar Oak Tree Curved and Straight Purlin Rafter Stone Roof Tile Tie Joint Windbrace Wooden Peg

12 Tools:

Broad Axe Chisel Felling Axe Great Wheel Mallet Pincers for lifting stone Pitsaw Plumb Line Saw Set Square Stone Saw Wooden Pulley

The tool descriptions are written in the passive whereas all the other items are written in the first person,

Abbess



My name is Dionisia la Blunde and I have been Abbess of Shaftesbury since 1329. I am planning to build a new barn at Bradford for threshing and storing wheat, oats and barley. The abbey has 42 hides of land there and the harvest is good. We have our own wood and stone and there are good masons and carpenters in the town.

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.

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.

Charcoal Burner

First I put up a post and build up piles of logs around it. I cover them with straw and soil. I take out the post and put a fire into the hole. When the logs are burning well I stop up the hole. The fire must burn slowly so the wood turns into charcoal. Charcoal burns hotter than wood. The lime burner and the smith both need charcoal for their

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Great Wheel Walker



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 and join them with pegged joints.



I am not skilled like a carpenter nor a mason but just someone who is strong and willing to work. The barn building needs labourers like me to lift and push and pull. Here I am lifting dressed stone. I have dug trenches and carried wooden beams. Tomorrow I will be asked to do some other job. I earn my penny and my family can eat.



I spend my day walking inside the great wheel. The wheel turns a rope on a cylinder and it is used to lift stone, wood and mortar to the top of the building. I have to balance well and when it is lifting heavy stones the walking is very hard work.







Hewer

My job is to make square beams from round logs. I work in the forest where the tree is felled. First I cut notches in the log and then slice off the bark and outside wood with my broadaxe. I have hewed curved beams for crucks, queenposts and windbraces. The new great barn is keeping us hewers very busy.

High Steward



I look after all the manors of the Abbey of Shaftesbury. Bradford is our biggest manor with forty 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.

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.



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.

Mason



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.



I started as a stonemason but now I am a master builder. I have built part of Salisbury Cathedral and Shaftesbury Abbey but now I am building a great barn for the abbess of Shaftesbury. I make the plans and decide how much stone and wood we need. I keep an eye on all the work. Today I checked the joints in a pair of crucks before they were hoisted up onto the walls

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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.

Mortar Maker and Builder



I have made mortar and now I am building the wall. The dressed stone goes on the outside and a mixture of small stones and mortar in the centre of the wall. I am using a plumbline to make sure that my wall is straight.

Peg Maker





I make the pegs that the carpenters use to fix their joints. I make them from the heartwood of oak trees and shape them with a spokeshave. The holes are drilled with an auger. They are made of green wood so as they dry out they can be knocked in further to make a tighter fit.



Quarryman



My job is to split the stone so that it only needs a little work afterwards to make it straight and square. I hammer wedges into the stone until a crack appears. This is less work than sawing the stone. Sometimes I am successful and sometimes I end up with a lot of small pieces!



Sawyers

We work in pairs. In the picture we are sawing a small beam, but last week we worked in the woods sawing a large curved beam to make two cruck blades. One of us stands under the beam and pulls the saw down. I am usually top sawyer, but I also have to put in wedges and make sure the saw goes in a straight line.

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Ropemaker



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.



I hit the hot metal on an anvil with a hammer to bend it and shape it. I make all the tools for the masons, fellers, hewers, sawyers and carpenters building the barn. My apprentice puts charcoal on the fire and pushes up and down on the bellows. It is hot work.



Tree Feller

The Forest Keeper marks the trees for felling. I make sure they fall well and don't damage other growing trees. I use a felling axe. The Keeper has marked large curved oaks for crucks and straight oaks for posts, rafters and purlins.

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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.

Cruck Blades

We are a pair of cruck blades. We are curved. We were once the curved trunk of an oak tree. We were hewed square and then split down the middle with a two man saw . Now together we form a great strong arch. You can find three of us in the barn made from single trees. The other crucks are made of two or three pieces jointed together.

Lime Mortar



Limestone made of Prehistoric Sea Creatures

We lived in the sea 300 million years ago. Millions of us are in the limestone which lies under Bradford. The barn and the town are built out of us.



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 wind proof.

Oak Tree



I am a curved oak tree. We are used for building ships and making cruck blades for houses and barns. The forest keeper looks after us well because we are rare trees and there is a big demand for our wood. Purlin



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.

Rafters



This is a picture of the barn roof turned sideways so you can see us rafters. In the barn you need to lie down or use a mirror to look at us. We rest on the purlins and the cruck blades. There are battens fixed to us and they carry the heavy roof tiles.

Stone Roof Tile

Hole for the oak peg is at the top.



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.







