

The Twits - The Monkeys Escape

Lesson plan

Overview

Learning objective

- To be able to carry out an investigation and draw conclusions.

Learning outcome

- To carry out an investigation, make accurate observations, and create a strong and stable house for Muggle-Wump and his family to escape Mr and Mrs Twit.

Book reference

- Chapter 28: The Monkeys Escape.

Cross-curricular link

- Dowel rods, newspaper, lolly sticks, drinking straws, Blu-Tack, masking tape, glue sticks and string.



Starter

- Read Chapter 28 from *The Twits*, and especially this extract:

“That evening, Muggle-Wump and his family went up to the big wood on top of the hill, and in the tallest tree of all they built a marvellous tree-house. All the birds, especially the big ones, the crows and rooks and magpies, made their nests around the tree-house so that nobody could see it from the ground.

- Explain to the children that they are going to design a house for the monkeys that will mean they are safe from Mr and Mrs Twit. First, we have to carry out an investigation to make sure Muggle-Wump has the strongest, sturdiest house possible.

The Twits - The Monkeys Escape cont.

Main teaching activity

- Divide the class into six groups. Each group will investigate a different variable.
- Each group investigates a different variable. Throughout the investigation, the groups must observe and record their findings.
 - Groups A and B experiment with different structures. Using dowel rods, Group A makes a pyramid frame and a cube frame, and Group B makes a cuboid frame and a spherical frame.
 - Groups C and D experiment with different structures. Group C makes two pyramid frames, one using newspaper and another with lolly sticks. Group D makes two pyramid frames, one using drinking straws and another with dowel rods.
 - Groups E and F experiment with different joining materials. The groups use dowel rods and investigate how to join them together using Blu-Tack, masking tape, a glue stick, and string.
- The groups feed back to the rest of the class on their findings. As a class, agree on the most ideal way to make Muggle-Wump's house. Which is the strongest structure? The strongest material? The strongest joining material.



Group or independent activity

- Each group now makes a Muggle-Wump house using the agreed same structure, material and joining material.

Plenary

- Each structure can be tested, using loads (or even better, toy monkeys...)
- Test each structure, and evaluate:
 - Which is the strongest?
 - What affects the strength of the different houses? Are there still some variables? For example, did some groups use more materials? Were the materials placed more strategically than others?

Other activities

- Design, make and decorate Muggle-Wump's Dream Tree-House, with lots of imaginative additions, and reasons why he would like them.
- Read to the end of the chapter. Research countries in Africa, and write The Diary of Muggle-Wump, in which we find out what adventures Muggle-Wump and his family have in Africa with the Roly-Poly Bird.

