

STORIES FROM THE SEA

CREATE A NEW WORLD
THAT YOU HAVE FOUND
FOR THE FIRST TIME



Explorers travel to unfamiliar new environments where the landscape, plants, animals and climate might be quite different to their homeland. They are likely to come across people living there, with different languages, homes and customs to theirs. Very few places have nobody living in them at all: most parts of the world are home to someone even if they are new to an explorer.

In this activity, children imagine and describe a world that they have discovered, including its landscape, animals and plants, the climate/weather and the people.

Key learning outcomes

- Develop creativity and imagination.
- Develop and consolidate creative and descriptive writing and speaking skills.

Activity

Begin by explaining that the children are explorers, travelling across the sea to a new, unknown place. When they arrive, everything appears unfamiliar and strange to them. They need to describe everything about the new place to tell their friends and family back home.

Children can work in small groups to develop ideas about the environment, thinking about its landscape (desert, mountain, forest, marsh, river); its climate and weather (hot, humid, windy, cold, icebound); its plants and animals and its people - what they look like, what they eat,

how they live, what their homes are like.

They can illustrate this and describe it to their classmates, and answer questions from them.

Look at and discuss illustrations which capture the first encounters of explorers in places which are new to them, such as Sir Walter Raleigh's first view of 'Guiana' (Guyana in South America) <http://collections.rmg.co.uk/collections/objects/137465.html>. Do you think it was really like this?

Look at William Hodges' impression of his first view of Easter Island in the Pacific <http://collections.rmg.co.uk/collections/objects/13275.html>.

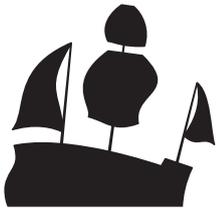


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Children can write up their description, having considered comments and questions from their classmates, in a variety of formats:

- as a letter home
- as a newspaper report
- as a log book
- as a diary.

They can illustrate their accounts.



More ideas

1. The class can create a drama around some of the accounts.
2. Children can create a simple language to communicate with the local people and teach it to their friends.



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