

Design a Bunting: Who am I?



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What is a Bunting?

Buntings typically consist of a set of paper flags which are used for decorative purposes. However, there are many variations of buntings; and one can find buntings made not only of paper, but also plastic, fabrics, leaves etc. In fact, these days, buntings are also used for a diversity of occasions like rallies, festivals, celebrations, promotions, demonstrations, awareness events, expression of identities and ideas and so on. From an educational point of view, bunting has been used as a teaching aid to explain concepts or as an artefact to make. For example, one can find lesson plans in the domain of design and technology where students make buntings and practice sewing and weaving skills (refer to the lesson plan developed by Hillstone School listed in the references section).

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Design a bunting that represents you!

Design a bunting with 5 elements. Each element should correspond to one of the given prompts and at the same time should satisfy one of the design choices.

Prompts

- A. Something close to my heart
- B. Something I dislike
- C. Something about yourself that you wish to also see in your adulthood
- D. If your name would appear in the Guinness Book of World Records, what would it be for?
- E. Anything about yourself

Design Choices

- 1. Use of Text
- 2. Drawing
- 3. Paper manipulation: can do anything with the paper (arrangement, folding, crushing, rolling is allowed; tearing/cutting not allowed)
- 4. Cutting/tearing of the paper
- 5. Use any one additional material from your home

Remember!

- 1. Your bunting should represent you or reflect your personality.
- 2. Your bunting should consist of five elements which are connected through a string. Therefore design your bunting such that it can accommodate a string.
- 3. All the design choices (constraints) have to be emphasized atleast ONCE, amongst the 5 elements of the bunting. For eg., you can pair (D) with (2) and (E) with (4).
- 4. The five frames/elements of the bunting may be arranged horizontally, vertically or diagonally.
- 5. The final arrangement of the 5 elements of the bunting can be as per your wish; and not necessarily in the order of the prompts.

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Background

Buntings are often considered a craft activity where children gain hands-on experience making flags. As a craft activity, buntings offer children the opportunity to create something aesthetic and creative. Crafting allows the maker to express their thoughts and abilities by taking control of creating, designing, planning, and evaluating the artifact and how it is made (Ihatsu, 2002). Besides fostering collaboration skills, cultural identity, and hands-on skills, crafting also provides a means for reflecting the maker's thoughts, creativity, conceptual understanding of visual art, experiences, and ability to think critically (Mayer, 2022; Pöllänen, 2009; Mirante, 2021).

Introducing design constraints to the bunting activity further engages children in creative problem-solving. In this scenario, learners must brainstorm visually creative ways to express themselves while adhering to specific rules that dictate how paper can be manipulated for each prompt.

This activity was developed by Anisha Malhotra-Dalvi as part of a special workshop on the occasion of Children's Day 2021.

References

Hillstone School Lesson Plan (nd). <https://www.hillstone.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Y2-Beautiful-Bunting.pdf>

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Mayer, F. (2022). Developing Children's Creativity Through the Art of Crafts. *Proceedings of the 6th International Conference of Early Childhood Education (ICECE-6 2021)*, Atlantis press, 30-33. <https://doi.org/10.2991/assehr.k.220602.007>

Pöllänen, S. (2011). Beyond craft and art: A pedagogical model for craft as self-expression. *International Journal of Education through Art*, 7 (3), 111-125.

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