

create

Message in a Bottle

First/Second Level Expressive Arts/Social Studies/Literacy EXA 1-02a SOC 1-02a LIT 1-14a, LIT 2-23a



create your own message in a bottle

for teachers

This Create & Play resource is suitable for first pupils. This activity is most suited to expressive arts and social studies outcomes, with opportunities for pupils to develop literacy skills, as well as teaching pupils a little about The King's Theatre's redevelopment.

Two differentiated variants of the worksheet are included in this document to allow pupils to choose the appropriate level of challenge.

resources you need

- A5 message in a bottle worksheet
- recycled plastic bottles (1 per group)
- pens and pencils
- teabags (1 each)
- water cup (1 per group)
- sellotape

what happened?



In December 2024, when The King's was still a building site, we found something very special indeed.

During a fairly normal visit to check on the progress of the building work, theatre historian Mike Hume and Capital Theatres' Technical Director John Robb were rooting around right above the middle of the stage. There is a large crown decorating the area above the stage and inside it they found a message hidden in a bottle.

The letter was dated to October 1906, just two months before the very first show went on stage at The King's. How old does that make the letter? The message was a list of 16 names, all of people who had been involved in building the theatre. This included everyone from the people who owned the building company, the architects, and the plasterers.

Now it's your chance to leave your own message for the future. In your groups you're going to be given a bottle that you can put your own messages in. This group of men only passed on their names, but what else would you want to say to someone 120 years in the future?

1

my message in a bottle

Name Mary Poppins

The best piece of theatre you've seen (or a show/movie)
I saw Cinderella, the pantomime.

Best memory from this month
I visited the zoo and saw the flamingos.

Your favourite place to go
I like going to the seaside in Portobello.

Someone who's important to you right now and why
My dad because he taught me to ride my bike.

Something you're looking forward to
I am excited for Christmas!



Fill in the sheet, answering all the questions, thinking about what you would want to share with someone 120 years in the future. Make your writing is as high quality as you can.

If you want to say anything that is not covered on the sheet, you could write this on the back.

Gently scrunch up your paper to make it look very old and worn.

Wet a teabag and then wring it out so that it is damp, but not too wet.

Dab the paper with the teabag and then set it aside to dry.

2

my message in a bottle

Name Mary Poppins

The best piece of theatre you've seen (or a show/movie)
I saw Cinderella, the pantomime.

Best memory from this month
I visited the zoo and saw the flamingos.

Your favourite place to go
I like going to the seaside in Portobello.

Someone who's important to you right now and why
My dad because he taught me to ride my bike.

Something you're looking forward to
I am excited for Christmas!



3



While you are waiting for your messages to dry, work as a group to decorate the outside of the bottle.

You might want to put your initials, like on the real bottle. What else do you think would make your bottle personal to your group?

Once your bottles are decorated and your papers are dry, roll them up and put them in the bottle.

Now agree when you are going to 'rediscover' your bottles and read your messages. This could be at a visit to the King's or at the end of the school year.

4



my message in a bottle

Name _____

The best show or movie I've seen is _____

The best thing I've done this month is _____

My favourite place in Edinburgh is _____

I'm really excited for _____

my message in a bottle

Name _____

The best show or movie I've seen is _____

The best thing I've done this month is _____

My favourite place in Edinburgh is _____

I'm really excited for _____

my message in a bottle

Name _____

The best piece of theatre you've seen (or a show/movie)

Best memory from this month

Your favourite place to go

Someone who's important to you right now and why

Something you're looking forward to

my message in a bottle

Name _____

The best piece of theatre you've seen (or a show/movie)

Best memory from this month

Your favourite place to go

Someone who's important to you right now and why

Something you're looking forward to