

Still Life with Drinking-Horn

By

Willem Kalf (about 1653)

A reflection from the experience of using this picture

Initial thoughts on viewing this picture were how do we link this into the curriculum? After a cup of tea and a good deal of throwing around ideas we realised that each of the objects would have been collected from different places around the world.

We also knew that we needed to look at weather as part of our curriculum and thus the

‘Great Global Extreme Weather Scavenge Hunt’

was invented. We had realised that associated with most of the places where the objects could be found, there were also extreme weather conditions.

Buffalo Horns – mid North America – Tornadoes

Silver – Mexico – Hurricanes

Lobsters – New Zealand – the Doldrums

Persian Carpets – Syria and Iran – Sandstorms

Lemons – Italy – Snow blizzards

The list is not exclusive. We didn’t show the pupils the picture until the end of the half term – we were in fact revealing it as OFSTED were in attendance!

The children travelled around the world by following clues and messages which helped them find the objects and then the weather conditions they had to combat.

We did art connected to the objects and research as well as work on how you could travel place to place. Reproduced the patterns that might be on a Persian carpet and even an RE lesson linked with lemons.

So this wasn’t a conventional response to a painting but one that enabled us to fit it into our curriculum.

Marion Mills