



FREE RESOURCES

Pictures for talk in primary science

Asking the children carefully chosen questions about the picture will support them with learning to:

- construct explanations and link their ideas with evidence
- make confident challenges to the ideas of others
- explore scientific terminology and use it with genuine understanding

Pictures for talk in science activities are designed to be very open ended and usable with any age of children. The activities can be done as a quick ten minute starter, or extended into a longer and more in-depth lesson.

WHAT TO DO

Download the image overleaf by following the link and either display on a whiteboard or give out printed copies. Ask the children to discuss, in groups of three, the following questions:

WHAT DO YOU THINK HAS HAPPENED TO THIS HOUSE OVER TIME?

WHY DO YOU THINK THIS?

WHAT DO YOU THINK MIGHT HAPPEN NEXT?

Other questions to generate and promote thinking and explaining:

- The picture is called 'Last House on Holland Island' (it was taken in May 2010 by an American photographer).
- Why do you think the photographer gave it this name? What further evidence might be useful to help you answer this question?
- What materials were chosen to make this building.
- Why do you think they were they chosen?

A picture can be a very good stimulus for children to engage in effective talk in science. Using pictures is an inclusive approach which facilitates high levels of participation. Pictures can also be used as a starting point for inquiry. The discussions the children have will generate questions that they want to investigate.



'Last House on Holland Island'

Baldeaglebluff, "Last House on Holland Island", 23rd May 2010, online image, Flickr, 20th May 2019, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/baldeaglebluff/5193166145/in/photostream/>

- What problems do you think the house has faced?
- Do you think that these problems could have been prevented? Why do you think this?
- Ask the children to look closely at the photograph. Is the house floating? Why do you think this?
- What type of birds are on the roof of the building? Why might they choose this place?

Follow-on discussion ideas:

- The house was built in 1888. What do you think the house would have looked like 100 years ago? What might it look like in 10 years' time? Why do you think this?

Download and look at the two pictures below that follow on from the main image:

- Is the house floating in the first image?
- Why do you think the house was burned down after it collapsed? What does this tell you about the materials from which it was made?



October 9, 2010



October 16, 2010

