Building a school from plastic bottles

Activity

This is useful with all KS3 pupils and maybe older students. It uses thinking skills in that they have to decide what information to use and what to make assumptions about They need to have some knowledge of calculating circumference. It can work with all abilities but lower ability students will need more scaffolding.

Cross curricular opportunities

Humanities, Art, Citizenship

Resources

The ones I used came from the Bowland disc (professional development area)

What as a teacher did I get out of this.

This was an opportunity for students to use real information to decide what they needed to know and to think about how to solve the problem.

The Task

The task is on the professional development area of the disc, case studies and maths. Building a school from waste plastic bottles.

Outcomes

Excellent display material and very lively debate about the different information they found. Some higher ability groups did some really good maths and lower ability still found ways to solve the problem with their own level of knowledge.

Students views

Great fun, loved making posters, “we did no maths for three lessons”