

Rebel Tribe Home Educational Resources

From Kelly Allen Writer

THEME: BOXES

Introduction, Disclaimer and Tips...

I have created this resource as part of our personal home educational experiences and choices. We went from quite structured to unschooling to a sort of agreed semi-structured approach because it suited us. These resources do not replicate or replace the National Curriculum, instead they offer a more creative approach to life and the world around us. These resources are for creative families who want to work together to discover more about themselves and the world around them.

Whilst using this resource, don't worry about completing it in order. Instead follow your child/children's lead and their cues to get the best out of this pack. There are no tests and no right or wrong answers, just have fun! This month we chose 'boxes' as a theme because we fell in love with a song entitled Little Boxes, and it led from there.

We hope you enjoy this resource as much as we enjoyed putting it together for you!

Discussion

To start this topic, it's important to talk about it first, right? So maybe whilst you're sitting together at the table, or when you're out at the park (or maybe you prefer circle time) basically wherever it feels right, start talking about boxes. Where do you see them? What are they used for? What box and cube shapes do you see every day? Get them (and yourself) immersed in the world of boxes....

Arts & Crafts

There's so much creativity in the world of boxes, here are just a few simple ideas to get you started...

- Cubism : You can get a selection of books to read (from Amazon or your local library) to learn all about Cubism. Following this you can design your very own drawings and paintings following the concepts of Cubism.
- Watch movies and video clips on youtube. Our faves are listed at the end of this resource.
- Visit an art gallery with cubist paintings.
- Get creative with pencils, paints and pens.
- Create a fort out of recycled boxes.
- Play with Lego and other building blocks.

Extensions/Alternatives

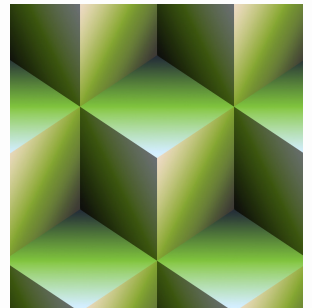
- **For younger children just get crafty with boxes and junk modelling, let them lead the way!**
- **For older children, really get into the concept of how this kind of art is created. Challenge them with pencil drawings and paintings and don't hold back!**
- **Go one step further and create a wooden box. It will take time and concentration, but it will delve further into the aspects of a perfect cube, plus it can be decorated afterwards and used however your child/ren wish!**

Recommended reading/links:

[Cubist Art Tutorial](#)

[Cubism \(Colour Library\)](#)

[Cubism \(Taschen Basic Art Series\)](#)



History, Geography and the Environment

The history, geography and environment are great topics when it comes to boxes (honestly!)....

History: Have some fun researching the history of Rubiks and Gair. You can use Youtube, the local library or if you have a little budget you can check out Amazon.

Geography: For this section it would be great to take a look at the following...

1. Naturally occuring cubes/boxes (pyrite/Dead Sea)
2. Where Professor Rubik came from/grew up
3. Where Gair was born and where the carton was invented

Environment: Reduce, reuse and recycle! Why not discuss how much cardboard you recycle as family. Could you cut back? Could you upcycle it or re-use it? Here are a few of our favourite ideas...

- Create houses out of boxes and develop a village for the to play with
- Let them decide how to recycle or reuse a box
- Try out some decoupage
- Get them involved in the recycling in your household

Extensions/Alternatives

- For younger children you simply need to get hold of a Rubiks cube and play. It's all about the fun and exploration!
- For older children this research may take on a life of its own. Let it, encourage it and see where it goes!
- In terms of Geography it may be a good idea to develop some sort of Geography box for extended learning.

Recommended reading/viewing:

Robert Gair

Geography Boxes

Pyrite

Rubik's

Dead Sea Video



Thinking and Creative Writing

Writing and discussing concepts and topics is a sure fire way to get everyone really and truly thinking...

From worksheets to discussion, breaking boundaries using this theme is one of the main things we focused on. There are several ideas and worksheets attached at the end of this resource pack. Other ideas include:

- talk about the squares, cubes, boxes and other shapes that you see on any walks or adventures you go on
- go on a box finding hunt around your home
- purchase story cubes and use them as a storytelling device
- read books about stereotypes and discuss thoughts and feelings

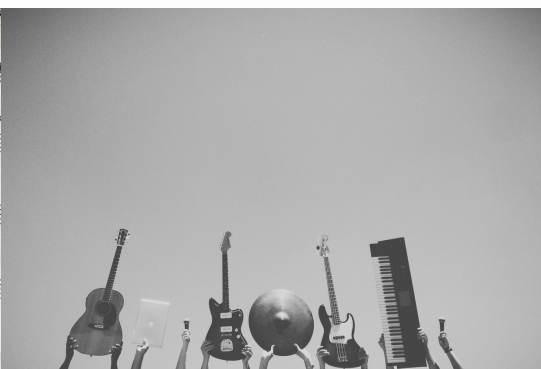
Extensions/Alternatives

- For younger children (or children who prefer it), make it all about verbal storytelling. This is a great skill regardless of age!
- For older children this subject can be a lot deeper, such as how 'boxed' people are, how differences make the world a beautiful place. It can be a very moving and life changing experience and as parents we need to have these conversations.
- Short stories, poetry and more could extend this area of learning.

Suggested resources:

Story Cubes

Being Different Article



Music

Music totally began this topic for us. We heard a song called 'Little Boxes' and then we were off! Check out some of our ideas to introduce different music and activities surrounding the theme of boxes...

- Listen to music and songs focused on boxes and cubes... anything about stereotypes works too further down the line. Discuss lyrics and really hone in on what the singers are trying to convey.
- Create your own music and songs about boxes

Extensions/Alternatives

- For younger children explore music in terms of enjoyment and movement
- For older children go one step further by recording a song with them or performing it in front of family and friends
- Create musical instruments to tie in with the music you create, for example, make a shaking musical box from a recycled box and dried pasta.

Suggested Resources:

Little Boxes by Malvina Reynolds

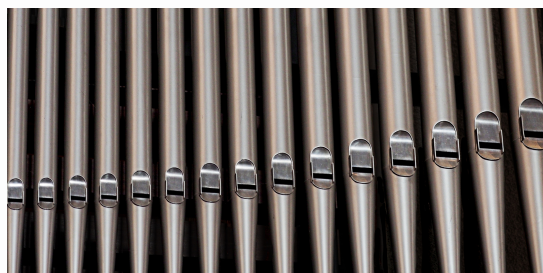
Empty Boxes by Tamar Braxton

Boxes by Goo Goo Dolls

Boxes by Charlie Winston

Make Musical Instruments

Make Musical Instruments with Veg & Fruit



Maths

Maths can be very interesting when it comes to cubes...

- Use a ruler, pencil and pen to make a cube from paper or cardboard (or a template from the link below)
- Create Inquiry Cubes for your children to figure out
- Buy some mathlink cubes and follow some activities using these. Use these for solving mathematical problems as well as generally having a play with them. You never know where their imagination will go!

(links to all suggestions below)

Extensions/Alternatives

- **For younger children use a large cube to play various games, use Duplo to build and count and recognise colours. (Links below) . Use cubes to count from 1-10 or up to whatever number your child feels comfortable counting up to.**
- **For older children make the Inquiry Cubes more challenging.**
- **Get children to create their own Inquiry Cubes.**

Recommended reading/viewing:

[Make your own cube](#)

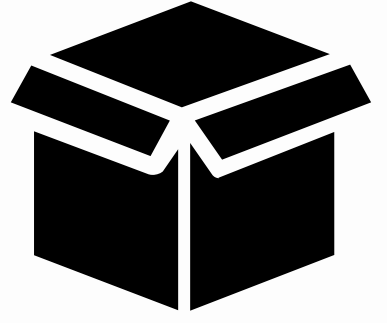
[Mathlink Cubes](#)

[Inquiry Cubes](#)

[Large Cube activity](#)

Thank you so much for trying out our creative Rebel tribe Resource Pack, we hope you enjoyed it! Below are extra activity sheets if you need them xxx

How many squares/cubes can you find on your walk?



How many squares/cubes can you find in your home?

A series of 15 horizontal black bars of varying lengths, stacked vertically, representing redacted text. The bars are of different heights and widths, filling the entire page area.

A series of 15 horizontal black bars of varying lengths, stacked vertically, representing redacted text. The bars are of different heights and widths, filling the entire page area.

If I were a box I would be...

What would you look like?