

Year 4 – Lesson Plan 1 – D.T.

Can You Build a Mini Greenhouse That Works?

Aim: To design and construct a model greenhouse using frame structures and transparent materials.	Key Words: • structure • frame • transparent • design • reinforce	Preparation: • Straws, wooden sticks, lolly sticks, or card strips • Plastic sheets or clear food packaging (acetate, sandwich bags, etc.) • Scissors, tape, glue, string • Small trays or paper pots for planting (optional) • Images of greenhouses and basic frame structures
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Prior Learning: Children will have explored materials and basic joining techniques in earlier D.T. lessons.

WC / PT	Warm-up: Show photos of real greenhouses. Ask: <i>What shapes can you see? What materials are they made from? Why are they see-through?</i>	0-5 mins
WC	Main Teach: Explain the purpose of a greenhouse. Show how a strong frame supports the transparent cover. Model how to create a cube or triangular frame using straws/lolly sticks and tape.	5-10 mins
I / S	Activity: Children design and build their own mini greenhouse using the materials provided. They must create a stable frame and cover it with transparent material. Encourage reinforcing corners.	10-30 mins
I	Extension Challenge: Add a working door/flap or test whether it can hold a small plant pot inside.	30-35 mins
WC	Plenary: Children share their structures. Ask: <i>What made your frame strong? Did your greenhouse work? What would you improve next time?</i>	35-40 mins

WC – Whole Class

PT – Partner Talk

I – Independent

S – Support

Challenge A	Write a science diary entry imagining what might grow inside your greenhouse.
Challenge B	Research a famous greenhouse (e.g. The Eden Project or Kew Gardens) and create a fact file.