Sundial

Artefact: Sundial

Environment Sundial with light, giant torch, moonhoops and wooden figures, torches. Metronome ticking. Tongue drums and wood instruments. Sun rises over giant sundial of bamboo poles. Metallophones, tubular xylophones and white chimes. Laser machine and smoke machine.



Shadows In stillness, to sound of metronome, watch the sundial with torch light going round and round, moving shadows of wood figures on moonhoops. Play with torches, figures and moonhoops, lights moving, growing, shrinking, creating shadows with hands/feet/fingers. See figures on walls, floor, imitate figure positions.











Tick tock The metronome ticks on. Pick up rhythms with wood sounds - listening, movement responses. Tactile exploration and different textures. Different rhythm patterns, tempi, dynamics, pitches. Stopping and starting (& accelerating). Sharing and imitation, call and response. Different beaters/parts of beaters/use of hands. Feeling vibrations. Positions of playing (e.g. on lap, on floor etc.).

Sunrise Warm orange glow over giant sundial draws you in. Move in and out, play with your body shadows on walls/floor. Introduce sustained metallic sounds with xylophones and chimes. Lights dim and lasers create coloured stars across the space. Add smoke machine and see the laser lines appear - magical, beautiful, catch them with moonhoops, body parts, white cloths, before the sun rises and it's time to leave.











Observations The metronome ticking and torch moving slowly round created a real sense of stillness at the start which really focused attention and created a 'silence' in which everyone became united. Torch play was exploratory and fun - could do with another 'giant' torch. Tick tock wood sound section engaged everybody - lots of listening and play with rhythms. Giant sundial created a bright, airy space which encouraged movement and interaction. Chimes worked well - sustain giving great contrast between that and more staccato rhythms of wood section. Laser lights magical - if only the 'smoke' had lasted a bit longer!



