

Bamboo

Easily obtained from local garden centres or online, this versatile resource is a must have. It is visually beautiful and resilient, and available in a variety of thicknesses and lengths, making it a useful resource for creating spaces and structures. It is easy to drill holes in, to enable secure fastening with rope or cable ties. The longer, thicker poles can quickly form the basis of many different structures, for example tepees, shacks, beach huts or temples.

Sometimes you can re-use a bamboo structure in different workshops, with a little accessorising, to save on build time.

Bamboo has unique sound and textural qualities and is used around the world in the making of many intriguing instruments, which can also complement and reinforce different themes.

Ways to use bamboo:

- Build large structures by first securing bamboo poles to firm attachment points on the walls or ceiling. Vertical poles can often be hung from the ceiling so they just touch the floor, and then secured at the base with sandbags or stones to prevent swinging.
- Tie additional poles onto the basic framework to create simple dwellings. The structures can create the feeling of a large space or give focus to a particular area.
- Attach bamboo screens (available from garden centres) to pole structures to create an enclosed space.
- Tie large sheaves of leafy bamboo around the space to form beautiful forest areas. Shine lights or torches up through the leaves to make gigantic moving shadows on the ceiling and walls.
- Attach leaves, real or constructed, to vertical poles to create trees.
- Initiate dancing and movement through hiding and revealing behind bamboo clumps.
- Play with the rustling leaves to create an additional aural texture to the setting.
- Decorate poles to enable alternative uses, i.e. with ribbons, streamers, bunting.
- Tap long poles with sticks to encourage rhythm-making and play.
- Build percussion racks, useful for gongs and bottle xylophones.
- Build structures that encourage participation around a secure vertical pole, such as a cider or wine press.
- Source bamboo instruments from around the world such as xylophones, anklung, gopichand and slapsticks, as they provide unique musical qualities for participants to experience.

Links

Cloths (Prop)

Gongs (Prop)

Building (Activity)

Workshops

Bamboo, Tiger, Marchand de vin, American Gothic,

Videos

We're all squashing grapes

A versatile bamboo structure

Rainforest Rain