

Build a bus

Can you build a bus for London's future? Get hands-on with special objects from the Museum collection as we investigate how London's buses are made, and why they have changed over time.

Key learning enquiry: *How are London's buses made and how have they have changed over time?*

Pupils will learn:

- About the role of the bus in London's public transport system past and present.
- How the design and function of London buses has changed over time.
- How the role of workers on the buses has changed with the development of bus design.
- How the experience of passengers has changed with the development of bus design.
- How tickets have changed over time.

EYFS: Mathematical and Physical development

Before your visit

- Organise a trip travelling by bus, or role-play a bus journey by arranging chairs into rows and pretending to be the passengers/driver. Think about different bus users and how we navigate our way on an off a busy bus.
- Practise using plastic coins to role play passengers getting on and off the bus. Where does each passenger want to go? How much will their ticket cost? Can they find the right coins to pay?

After your visit

- Draw' giant buses on the ground in a large space, e.g. hall/playground using found objects, both natural and man-made. Use gym equipment, e.g. hoops to make wheels, bean bags for wing mirrors, or natural items, e.g. twigs, vines, flowers to create the outline of a bus.
- Sing songs about buses, e.g. *The Wheels on the Bus*. Make up your own lyrics about your trip to the Museum, specific to your class, e.g. the teacher on the bus says 'here we are, here we are, here we are...' the children on the bus say 'when's our lunch...?'



london
transport
museum

enjoyment to
employment

KS1: Design and Technology, Mathematics and History

Before your visit

- **Talk about and investigate buses.** Who has been on a bus before? Where did they go? Where on the bus did they sit? Talk about the concept of fares. Show them an Oyster card. Did their grown-up use an Oyster card? What did they do with it? How do we know where to get on and off a bus?
- **Read or watch Kit Write's poem The Magic Box** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/zkpmhyc> Talk about why these things are special. Think of something that is special to you? If you put your object in a time capsule how would you like people in the future to look after it? This activity will help children for object handling during their Museum visit. Why are old objects special? Which old objects might we find on an old bus? Can we learn anything from them?

After your visit

- **Design your own 2D bus drawing and cut out shapes from card or felt.** Glue the shapes, e.g. rectangle for the body of the bus, circles for the wheels onto a sheet of paper and make a display from the designs. Challenge pupils to write labels for the different shapes they have used.
- **3D modelling.** Hold a competition to design and build a bus for the future out of found materials, e.g. cardboard boxes, straws, sticks, corks, empty cartons, buttons etc.

Explore our [Future Engineering Wonders webpage](#) for more information