

Scarecrow Festival



Scarecrow Festival is one of our favourite annual events at Tatton Park! Enjoy the fresh air and a walk through the beautiful Gardens and Farm to search out our fantastic scarecrow friends. Making a scarecrow has lots of learning potential and cross-curricular links, so here are a few suggested activities to bring the scarecrow fun to your own home or classroom.

Activity 1: Material Test

Before making a scarecrow, you should give some thought to what materials you will make it from. Remember, your scarecrow will be outside protecting your garden!

TASK: Gather a selection of materials and conduct various tests on them to decide which are the best to use for your scarecrow. It is important to consider which are hard wearing and waterproof, but also which provide the right colours and textures to create your chosen design. Choose the categories that you will test your materials on (e.g. strength, waterproofness, visual appeal etc) and make a table to record your findings in. Carry out tests on each material (e.g. for strength – pull as hard as you can, for waterproofness – submerge in water etc) and give each material a score out of 10 to describe how well they responded. Discuss your findings as a group and choose which materials to use for your scarecrow. You might use different materials for different elements of the design.

Activity 2: Design

Once you have thought about materials, you should think about your design. Think about a person/character you might want to create.

Draw your scarecrow design onto a piece of paper. Label each section to say what material you are using and why (based on the material test). Make sure you colour in the scarecrow and try to show texture where you can, e.g. if using hessian, create the hatched design with a pencil.



TIP: You could have a family competition to decide on the final design. Each child or family member can create a design and then vote for their favourite (not their own!)

Activity 3: Real Scarecrows

Scarecrow Festival is a fun, family event, but it is not what scarecrows are normally used for! Scarecrows protect fields from birds. When farmers sow seeds, they want to be sure that the birds will not disturb the ground or pick up and eat the seeds from the soil. This would stop them from having a good crop and having produce to eat and sell. Scarecrows are made to look like a person stood in the field, in order to scare the birds away – clever!

Imagine that you are a farmer and write a job description for a new scarecrow. Describe what qualities the scarecrow needs to have. For example, do they need to be tall, able to stand still for long periods of time and not be worried about being outside in bad weather? Write about why the job is so important and what benefits it will have for you, as the farmer.

TIP: Use the Internet to research different types and designs of scarecrow.

Activity 4: Roll a Scarecrow

Have some fun with a scarecrow themed dice game, based on ‘Beetle Drive.’ You will need a dice, plain paper and a pencil.

The aim of the game is to be the first to draw a scarecrow. You need six different parts and only one of each. On your turn, roll the dice and match the number shown to the list below. You can draw that scarecrow part onto the paper to start your picture. Give the dice to the next player. If on your turn you roll a number you have already rolled, it is the end of your turn. You will need to be patient to collect one of each part. Good luck!

1 – Head

2 – Face

3 – Body

4 – Arms

5 – Legs

6 – Hat

