



Intro activities

Planning the park



What you need
nothing

Time
10-15 minutes

The activity

Select 4 to 6 children from the class to be the 'planners'. Just like Mr Brown was, they are the artists 'composing' their landscape. The rest of the children will act as 'trees' for the artwork.

Explain that Mr Brown arranged trees on their own, in groups or around the edge of the landscape.

The only commands that the planners can use are 'left', 'right', 'nearer' or 'further' (plus each child's name). The planners need to stop and step back to their starting viewpoint from time to time to review whether they think the 'park' looks right.

If the teacher has a camera or smartphone, they could take a photo of the final arrangement to show the children back in school.

More able / older pupils

The planners could be given different elements to add to their landscape, such as water, bridges, sheep.

Additional commands could be used such as 'move diagonally', 'two steps to your...' etc

Curriculum links

Geography – maps

Art – landscape paintings / composition / perspective



Families

This activity might work if you were organising a led event with multiple families taking part (the children could be planners and the adults could be the park elements).



This resource refers to 'Mr Brown', who was 18th century landscape designer Capability Brown. It can just as appropriately apply to other designers, such as Richard Woods or Humphry Repton, so don't worry if the landscape you are visiting was not designed by Brown.

Resource thanks to the Capability Brown Festival Education Pack-
<http://capabilitybrown.org/resources-sites/>