



The Great Turkish Tulip Challenge



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A Schools' Adventure from
The House of Fairy Tales
March 2018

A
House
of
Fairy Tales
**THINK
INGS
KIT**
initiative
for
Primary
schools

Have you ever wished ...

... that your school could be more creative and inspiring?

... that the day could be more cross-curricular?

... that students could take more charge of their own learning,
following their interests, talents and abilities?

... that students' experience in school was more relevant to their future lives?

... that it was possible to learn science through art and music through maths,
history through physical exercise and *vice versa*?

... that you could teach your students to occasionally fail gloriously,
instead of always succeed with mediocrity?

Have you ever wanted ...

... to throw away the constraints of the curriculum for a day?

If the answer to any of these is 'yes' ...

... then your school should take part in

The Great Turkish Tulip Challenge

... a glorious experiment for schools near The Bowes Museum



We would love to invite your school
to take part in the first year of

The Great Turkish Tulip Challenge

This year we are piloting the Challenge to schools within a 50-mile
radius of The Bowes Museum. It will subsequently be promoted
throughout the UK.

We would love you to pioneer it for us.

Why schools near
The Bowes Museum?

The Museum will be hosting two exhibitions, created by
The House of Fairy Tales, from July to November 2017 ...

**Turkish
Tulips**

**THE
Clockwork
GARDEN**

The Clockwork Garden is an immersive and interactive adventure trail
in the gardens of The Bowes Museum, with mechanical artworks,
whirring installations, strange animations and a puppet theatre.

Broadly aimed at Primary school-age children and their families,
it opened on 29 July, the same day as *Turkish Tulips*, an exhibition of
contemporary tulip artworks curated by Gavin Turk.

Turkish Tulips is displayed as an art trail throughout the spectacular
collections of The Bowes Museum.



Why Turkish Tulips?

Everyone knows that tulips come from Holland. Except that they don't.
Tulips actually originate in the mountains of Central Asia and were
first appreciated by Persian poets and first cultivated by Turkish Sultans
in the Ottoman Empire.

Turkish Tulips is a fascinating project exploring the history,
geography, economics, science and philosophy of Europe, the Middle
East and Asia. Spanning all the curriculum subjects, the metaphor of
this simple but symbolic flower follows the Silk Road trade routes
established between the Chinese, Persian, Indian and Roman
empires, focuses on the incredible popularity of tulips during the
Ottoman Empire and examines their arrival into Europe during
the Dutch Golden Age, moving on to consider globalisation,
migration and associated ecological and environmental challenges.

We are inviting children, young people and their teachers to explore
these ideas through a diverse array of material and then make a creative
response to what they have just investigated. These responses will be
exhibited in The Bowes Museum in County Durham, as well as on a
dedicated website thinkingkits.org.

At the end of the project we will have a very special celebration
of the results. This includes workshops where classes with brave and
curious responses, selected by *The House of Fairy Tales*'s artists,
collaborators and provocateurs, work to develop their ideas. The
celebration also launches all schools' creative responses exhibition.

Once these have been developed into plays, puppet shows, films,
exhibitions, musical compositions, engineering models, etc., they will
be selected for national exhibition spaces as well as presented in the
schools themselves.

Turkish Tulips Week

From the 5-8 March 2018 our Thinklab, with its occupants Brave and Curious, will be on standby to work with schools to deliver **The Great Turkish Tulip Challenge**.

For two days during that week each school will be transformed into a giant flower bed of learning. Every classroom will become a Thinklab where students investigate and refill their Thinking Rooms through cross-curricular and child-led sessions.

Every student will be given different challenges in every different subject from literature, mathematics and science to drama and PE. All normal curricula will be suspended for a couple of glorious immersive days filled with horticulture, economics, history and science.

Students will find out about our fascinating European History from the perspective of the entrepreneurial traders who travelled the Silk Road and our wonderful legacy from Rumi and the philosophers, cultural thinkers and horticulturists from Turkey, Syria and what we in the West call The Middle East or Arabia. In the regions of the world that now more often symbolise oil, war and refugees we discover the rich heritage of the Arabic and Turkish world.

They will learn about the foundations of the Enlightenment in Europe and the Dutch Golden Age, when traditional religious teachings were challenged by the new discoveries of scientific thinking, astronomy and evolution, leading to the establishment of our culture of learning through museums and universities.

Yinka Shonibare MBE, *Tulip Field*, 2016, digital print with hand-applied gold foil, 42 x 30cm

Artists involved include

Fiona Banner
Sir Peter Blake
Rob and Nick Carter
Helen Chadwick
Gordon Cheung
Mat Collishaw
Michael Craig-Martin
Adam Dant

Nancy Fouts
Anya Gallacio
Tom Gallant
Benjamin Grant
Mustafa Hulusi
Damien Hirst
Georgie Hopton
Charles Jones
Liliane Lijn
Rory McEwen

Cornelia Parker
Yinka Shonibare MBE
Sarah Staton
Gavin Turk
Philippa van Loon
Jim Hollingworth
Paul Sakoilsky
Dave Swindells
Jojo Tulloch



What is a Thinking Kit?

Thinking Kits are custom-made 'creativity' packs designed by our team of artists, in partnership with a particular organisation or institution. They bring inspiring history, stories, science and games into schools and homes throughout the country. Each Kit's content is inspired by real events and places, with the option that children and their teachers/parents can visit the exhibitions to enrich the learning experience.

This is a brand new initiative for the charity but we have a history of delivering successful and exciting projects with schools, including *Waterwheel* with The Thames Festival in 2010, where we worked with 104 schools across every Greater London borough. The project resulted in 1,881 unique child-generated Think Spaces being uploaded to the website: www.waterwheel.org.uk

What's in the Turkish Tulips Thinking Kit?

FOR EACH STUDENT

The Bowes Museum/*Turkish Tulips* edition of **The HoFT Examiner newspaper**

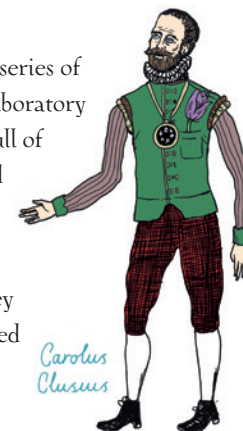
full of inspiring information, art, stories, facts, myths, legends, investigations, challenges, puzzles and games – the results of our cross-curricular research to enable learning through play

Thinking Guide

Enter *The House of Fairy Tales* to discover a series of **Thinking Rooms**. From sound studio to stage, laboratory to library, there is a room for everyone, each full of **Thinking Experiments** – challenges, tasks and suggestions for further exploration

Think Space

A sheet for each student to show how they can think for themselves about what they've learned and experienced



FOR TEACHERS

Teachers Thinking Kit Guide

making it easy to use the Kit in every classroom and helping teachers to navigate through the Challenge.

Project Advocate's Booklet

supporting school management and project champions to lead the school through the Challenge

FOR THE SCHOOL

Posters, stickers and tulip-related promotional material

for use within the school

Information sheet

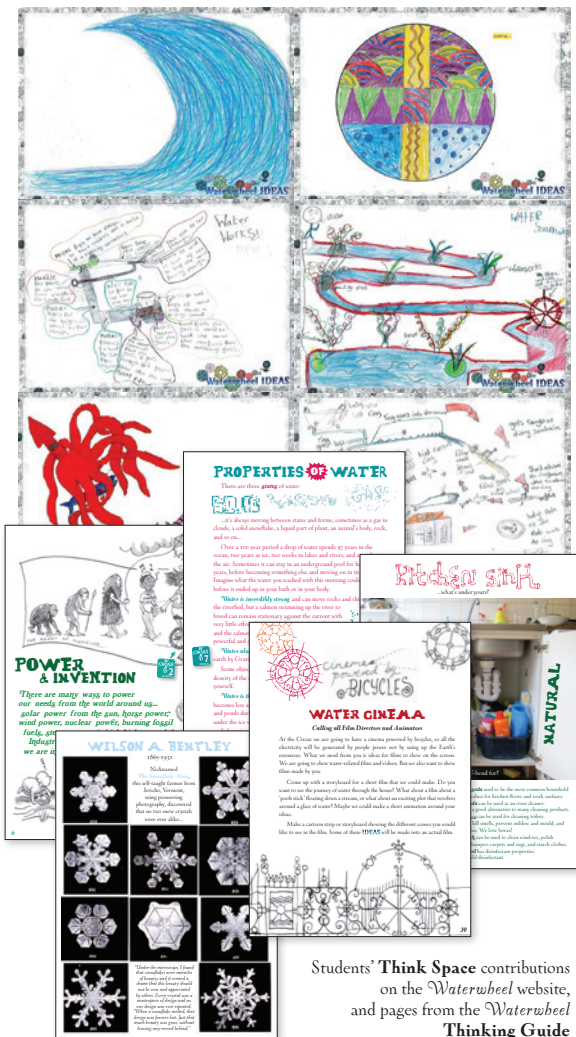
for parents and carers to involve them in the Challenge

Pack of cards

custom-made by artist Adam Dant



Sample pages from edition of *The HoFi Examiner* newspaper produced for the *Turkish Tulips* exhibition in Amsterdam



Students' *Think Space* contributions on the *Waterwheel* website, and pages from the *Waterwheel Thinking Guide*

How will it work in my school?

The **Great Turkish Tulip Challenge** would work fantastically well if the entire school took part because there will be more excitement and inclusion throughout the school.

The materials are aimed at key stage 1 and 2 but would work well adapted to younger and older students.

Sixth form students would be great facilitators of this experience and this would help their personal and social development.

This is all explained and elucidated in the **Teachers' Thinking Kit Guide** which has sections on each year group and how to encourage the students to get the most from the Challenge.

IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS class teachers will deliver the content through their usual classroom practice – focusing each curriculum subject on the tulip for two days – a fantastic opportunity for child-centred, cross-curricular, theme-based teaching practice.

CPD Training Day for Teachers and Management

On the 17 October 2017 there will be a Training Day for your team, to launch the Challenge and get excited about its potential for the students.

We will be hosting a playful and brilliant day of action. We will be exercising our capacities for being brave and curious collaborators. Between us we will be build a 'Brave and Curious Museum' that later in the day we will explore as the foundation for a conversation about how we can bring these capacities to bear in the classroom and how to inspire them in students.

Thinking Rooms

After students have explored the subjects and themes they are invited to make a creative response through one of the following **Thinking Rooms**. There are suggestions and ideas on every page of their **Thinking Guide** that will inspire the students to come up with original pieces of work.

Sound Studio: music, instrument-making, sound

Laboratory: engineering, design, inventions

Garden: food, horticulture, ecology

Cinema: film, animation, digital

Stage: puppetry, drama

Workshop: fashion, textiles, costumes, craft

Attic: collecting, museums, archives

Hall of Cartography: mapmaking, navigation

Library: storytelling, literature

Playroom: traditional, digital and virtual gaming

Gallery: pictures, sculptures and visual images



How much does it cost?

As a charity we can keep costs low through cross-subsidies so the price is an affordable

£2.50 per child

which covers all resources, teachers' packs and promotional material as well as delivery charges – including all content detailed above.

Who are we?

The House of Fairy Tales is a child-centred, artist-led organisation established in 2006, by artists Gavin Turk and Deborah Curtis. We have had charitable status since 2011 to ensure our work is affordable to all while delivering the highest possible quality of production and content.

We aim to bring more engagement, learning and creativity into all communities, cultures and socio-economic backgrounds across all intelligences, interests and talents. We draw on our extensive network of artists, performers, writers, educationalists, designers, musicians, film-makers, dreamers and philosophers to provide narrative-driven experiences for thinking and experimentation.

Operating across a number of formats from interactive events, workshops, exhibitions, publishing, advocacy and education packs, *The House of Fairy Tales* creates partnership projects which are inclusive, inventive and fun whilst inspiring lateral and divergent thinking and creativity in children of all ages.

www.houseoffairytales.org



Partnerships

Over the years we have worked in partnership with over 50 institutions from festivals and public events to museums, galleries and trusts.

These partnerships have included Tate, National Trust, RHS, Royal Shakespeare Company, Thames and Edinburgh Art Festival, Glastonbury and many more.



Sir Peter Blake, *Tulip*
after Walscapelle,
*Flowers in a
Glass Vase*,
1995–96,
acrylic on canvas,
21 × 21cm

Let us know if you would like your school to be part of this Challenge...

Your early response will ensure you are sent a sample Thinking Kit pack as soon as they are produced. Numbers are limited so express your interest now to be first on the list...

The House of Fairy Tales

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www.houseoffairytales.org/TurkishTulips

See also:

thebowesmuseum.org.uk/Exhibitions/2017/Turkish-Tulips

thebowesmuseum.org.uk/Exhibitions/2017/The-Clockwork-Garden

Thanks to:


THE BOWES
MUSEUM