

Fruit & Nuts!

Activity title:	Fruit & Nuts!
Curriculum subject or area:	Art, English, Maths, Science,
NC objectives:	Art - 1b, 1c, 3a, 3b, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5c. English - En1 1e), 2d), 3a) 8a) & 9a) and En2 3a), 3b), 3c) and En3 1b), 1c), 2), 4), 5a), 5b) Maths - Ma2 1a, b, e, 2i, 2k, 4a, 4b, 4d. Science - Sc1 - 1a, Sc2 - 1a, 1b, 1c, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 4c, 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, 5e and 5f.
Main learning objective:	That in WW1 children collected fruit (blackberries) and other nuts for the war effort and to recognise the associated vocabulary.

Timing	Lesson plan ideas, activities and resource sheets needed
INTRODUCTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask if the children have ever gone blackberrying, nut collecting or fruit-picking. Ask if they or their families have ever made jam from fruits they've collected. Explain that in the late summer and autumn of 1917, schoolchildren (firstly boys, but then boys and girls) and youth organisations (such as the Scouts) were allowed out of school to collect blackberries and conkers (horse chestnuts). These were then collected by the government and the children and teachers involved all received payment - the children for picking the blackberries while the teachers were paid for supervising the children!
MAIN ACTIVITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tell the class that they are going to be doing some work on blackberry and horse chestnuts. Provide the pupils with worksheets '4a Fruit & Nut problems', '4b Design a jam jar label', '4c Jam' (this could be set as homework or as an internet lesson), '4d Blackberry & Conkers Wordsearches' and '4e Blackberry & Horse

	<p>'Chestnut Science'</p> <p>PLENARY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask the class why children might have gone out to collect blackberries and horse chestnuts? The answer is that the blackberries were sent to be made into preserves (jams) for the armed forces and the conkers were used to make the explosive cordite that was used in the munitions industry and essentially filled every bullet, bomb and shell that was fired in the war! Ask the children if this was something they would do if the country was at war? Why were blackberries chosen over other fruits? One important reason were that there were free! While the collecting of blackberries was very successful, the collecting of conkers was less so. The reason was that the chemical process used on the conkers was much less effective than hoped and it simply didn't create enough of the chemical (acetone) needed.
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Suggested extension activities or cross curricular links:

- Undertake a school blackberrying trip and make jam from the fruit.
- Collect and play conkers in the autumn!
- Investigate the conservation aspects of taking fruit and nuts from the countryside.
- Investigate charcoal making - see <http://www.fweb.org.uk/Dean/deanhist/charcoal.htm>
- Investigate the history of explosives. See: http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/history/making_history/makhist10_prog3d.shtml and <http://archive.iwm.org.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.2940> for the background to the conker and cordite story