

## 2. Freeborn Rights: what's fair?

### KS2 Writing, Literacy, Citizenship: fairness, rules, making yourself heard

- Plan writing by identifying the audience and purpose of the writing, selecting the appropriate form and use other similar writing as models for their own. Draft and write by using further organisational and presentational devices to structure text and guide the reader (e.g. headings, bullet points, underlining).
- I can compose a set of instructions to make sure people are treated fairly. I can plan ways to make sure that games on the playground are played correctly. I can consider why different people might have different requirements.

### KS2 Art: woodcuts, engraving, printmaking, mirror image

- Improve their mastery of art and design techniques.
- I can create a design using woodcut techniques.

#### Writing

Look at panels 1 and 2 of Freeborn Rights: A Common Treasury.

- Why is the forester telling Thomas not to gather the nuts?
- Who do the nuts belong to?
- Read Thomas's reply – do you agree that the nuts belong to everyone?
- Does Thomas's reply change the forester's mind?

Choose an everyday situation. For example: breaktime games, lunch queue, going on the bus. Write a list of instructions to keep things fair.

Plan a promotional campaign to spread your message of fairness. Use the British Library's 'Campaign! Make Yourself Heard' resources <http://www.bl.uk/campaign> to help you.

#### Art

This art style is based on old wood cuts. Prints used to be coloured in by hand. Example: <http://archiveslive.ncl.ac.uk/amazing/aunt-elspas-abc/>

Imagine that your left hand is inky wood and your right hand is paper. The design needs to be back-to-front so it will print the right way round. These videos from the V&A Museum show how it works:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mgCYovlFRNY> – printmaker's studio
- <https://youtu.be/5MV8W6wLF3w>—Indian textile printing blocks

Use a plastic stylus to carve into half a potato, or a ballpoint pen to scratch into polystyrene sheets. Use a roller to apply a thin layer of printing ink. Put your paper on top. Press evenly (use a printing press or a wooden spoon to gently press the paper onto the design). Peel back the paper to see your design.

**Summary of comic:** 1. Identifies key themes around the English Civil War and Lilburne's 'The Agreement of the People': political rights, religious rights, legal rights.

2. Spence's story (parable) of gathering nuts near Hexham, to introduce the idea that everyone has rights (rights are not given by government).

3. Biography of Thomas Spence as a key figure in sharing the message that everyone has rights.

**Comic artist/writer:** Terry Wiley

**Academic researcher:** Rachel Hammersley, Newcastle University

**Read online:**

<http://research.ncl.ac.uk/fccomics/chapters/freebornrights.html>

