



This term we are going to be looking at **SUMMER FUN!** There are going to be some great quick builds from ice creams and sandcastles to piers and seagulls!

The main thing is that the quick builds are done as described on the correct week as this forms the basis of the inter school competition where your school can earn points for the national leaderboard.

## THE QUICK BUILDS

The first half of the club is usually taken up with the quick build. The **Fabretta** video can be used directly from **Youtube** each week or downloaded from **Dropbox** if that is easier. **Fabretta** will cover the basic learning objectives each week along with the rules for the club and a timed quick build for the children to work along with.



Usually the teacher will choose the best from each table and get the children to show their creations at the front. The rest of the children can then vote on who they want to win. You should then take a photo with your phone and send it in to us each week (send to [competition@kidswithbricks.com](mailto:competition@kidswithbricks.com)) Parents and children can then vote for their favourites online.

# 1. ICE CREAM

Ice cream is definitely a staple of summer fun! Lots of people enjoy them at the beach on a hot, sunny day. America even has a national ice cream day on the third Sunday of July, a celebration written into national law by the President back in 1984!

Ice cream can be made from dairy milk, almond milk, coconut milk, cashew milk and soy milk. There are two different kinds of this frozen treat; soft ice cream and hard ice cream. If you've ever had an ice cream from an ice cream van, it was most likely soft ice cream and if you've had it from a tub at home, it was most likely hard ice cream. The harder scooped ice cream often comes with extra ingredients such as nuts, chocolate chips and bits of fruit. Both types are delicious though!



The most popular flavours of ice cream include vanilla, chocolate, mint and strawberry but this varies from country to country. Here in the UK, our favourite is vanilla along with America, France, Japan and many other countries all over the world. People in Spain, however, prefer strawberry and in Chile in South America, they prefer chocolate with almonds. There are also some really interesting and unusual flavours of ice cream including crab, bacon, candy floss, fish and chips and garlic. Yum!

## DID YOU KNOW?

Ice cream has been around for thousands of years!

In around 400BC, the Persian empire was using ice combined with fruit juices to create frozen treats. It wasn't much like the ice cream we know and love today though and it was also very expensive and hard to keep. At this time, there was no way of storing ice (they didn't have freezers!). As a result, when the recipe reached Ancient Rome runners were sent to the mountains to collect and carry ice to the cities before it melted!



When ice cream reached France and Europe in the 16th century, it had undergone quite a transformation. There was now the ability to store it and China had added milk to the recipe; it was more like the ice cream of today. It's popularity continued to grow and spread out across the world. By 1851, America was selling it commercially.

Nowadays, ice cream is very popular and we certainly eat a lot of it. In fact, here in the UK, on average we eat 9 litres of it **each** every year!

## QUICK BUILD

This week's quick build is...an ice cream!



## 2. DONKEY RIDES

Donkey rides are another traditional part of trips to the seaside and these gentle animals can often be seen lining the beach.

This tradition began in the Victorian era, when seaside holidays began to increase in popularity as the benefits of healthy sea air were recognised. Donkeys had been used to transport fish up the beach from the sea and had been a vital part of the fishing industry. However, as seaside resorts began to grow, the fishing industry slowed. A man called William Magor thought that the friendly character and patient temperament of the

donkeys might be useful for something else and in 1886 he offered the first donkey rides in Weston-Super-Mare.

Initially, donkeys were used as a way of transporting those who struggled to walk across the sand. William made a small chair which was attached to the donkey which then pulled them along the beach. However, it wasn't long until more people wanted a go; they wanted to be able to visit the beach without getting covered in sand! Eventually, people moved from the chair to the donkeys themselves and the donkey ride we know today was born.

Nowadays, donkey rides are not as popular as they once were with more people questioning whether the donkeys enjoy it. It is important to remember that they must be allowed to rest, given adequate water and should not be forced into anything that they don't want to do. If you're doubtful about any of these things, perhaps swap the donkey ride for an ice cream instead!

### DID YOU KNOW?

Donkeys have always been an important part of history ever since they were first domesticated in North Africa around 6000 years ago. From ploughing fields in Ancient Egypt and working vineyards for the Romans to transporting materials in Greece, they've always been incredibly useful. They carried silk along the Silk Route for over 4000 miles. They were used in the First World War to help with labour when the horses were away at war. They are even known to calm down nervous horses and are used to guard sheep, goats and cows. All in all, the humble donkey is very, very important!

### QUICK BUILD

This week's quick build is...a donkey!



### 3. SANDCASTLES

If you've ever been to a beach, you're bound to have seen our next summer fun essential... the sandcastle!

Sandcastles are structures made of sand which often resemble miniature castles or buildings. Sometimes they have moats and flags and some are even covered with decorative shells.

Usually, buckets and spades are used to build sandcastles. A quick and easy method is to fill a bucket with damp sand, turn it upside down, give it the magic tap, lift the bucket up and...ta dah! Another way is to build it by hand which can be more difficult but lots of fun. An even more fun way is to build a 'drip castle'. These are created by mixing sand and water in a bucket and dropping it from above!



Castles aren't the only things you can build on the beach, however, you can build anything you want to! Some people build animals and landmarks and others build people or buildings and even film scenes. There are even competitions for the best sand sculptures. The tallest sandcastle built as part of a contest was by Ronald Malcnujio who built one 5 metres tall. That's almost the same height as a giraffe! It took 10 litres of water and one tonne of sand to build.

The method of sand sculpting is a very old art form. An Indian poet called Balam Das created sand sculptures over 600 years ago! Some people also believe that the Ancient Egyptians may have used sand sculptures to recreate the pyramids however there is no concrete (or sand based) evidence to support this. This art form became very popular during the 20th century and nowadays some people even build them for their jobs.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

The biggest sandcastle in the world was built in Germany on the 1st September 2017. It took 25 days to build, 19 sand artists and 3500 tonnes of compressed sand. It was built using cranes and an excavator although the tricky and intricate details were drawn by hand. They depict buildings from around the world including temples from Thailand. The sandcastle stood at a huge 14.8 metres tall, **twice** the size of a giraffe!

#### QUICK BUILD

This week's quick build is...a sand sculpture!





## 4. BLACKPOOL TOWER

Blackpool Tower is popular beach side tourist attraction in the North West of England. Have any of you ever been?

It was designed by two Lancashire architects James Maxwell and Charles Tuke and was based upon the design of the Eiffel Tower in Paris. It took 3 years to build and cost almost £300,000, equivalent to more than £40 million today!

The tower stands at 158.1 metres tall and if the wind speed reaches more than 70mph, it wobbles and sways by an inch! Unlike the Eiffel Tower, it is not freestanding and has a base hidden by buildings at the bottom. These buildings house a number of popular attractions including the famous tower ballroom. Underneath all of these and the foundation stone, there is a time capsule from 1891!

Blackpool Tower first opened to the public on the 14th May 1894 and it celebrated its 125th anniversary this year. It is usually a deep red colour however for its 100th year it was painted gold and the top was painted silver in 1977 to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Silver Jubilee. It takes seven whole years to paint the entire tower!

The people who look after the Tower and carry out any maintenance work are known as 'stick men' and they use the 563 steps up to the top. There are 10,000 bulbs used to illuminate the structure and it can be seen for miles around as far as the Lake District and even Wales!

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The top of the Tower is home to an observation deck 120 metres above sea level and a glass floor panel. Opened in 1998, visitors test their nerve by walking over the glass which is two inches thick and can support the weight of two elephants!

### **QUICK BUILD**

This week's quick build is...Blackpool Tower!



## 5. CARAVANS AND CAMPERVANS

Caravans and campers are a great way to explore the British coast in search of some summer fun. Some are towed behind cars (touring caravans), some are driven (motorhomes and campervans) and some are on sites (static caravans or holiday homes). They are all lots of fun to stay in.



Caravan holidays are becoming more and more popular as people are choosing to go on “staycations” rather than venturing abroad. In fact, only a few years ago in 2017, there was an increase of 7.1% of people buying caravans in the UK and the caravan/campervan industry contributes a massive £6 billion to the UK economy! It is a hugely important part of UK tourism.

According to figures by the National Caravan Council, there are around 225,000 motor homes, 365,000 caravan holiday homes and 555,000 touring caravans here in the UK and every year we spend around 50 million nights in one! They are very popular and perfect for summer adventures.

They can also be really expensive. In 2013, a motorhome containing underfloor heating and fireplace and even a bar sold for a huge £2 million in Dubai!

### DID YOU KNOW?

In 2007 it was said that if all the touring caravans in Britain were put end to end, they would stretch from Land's End to John O'Groats at least three times. That's over 3000 miles! With their popularity continuing to increase, imagine how far they would stretch now!

### QUICK BUILD

This week's quick build is...a caravan or campervan!



## 5. PIERS



Piers are raised structures sticking out over water, you've probably seen one before! They are most often associated with the Victoria era with images of well dressed ladies taking a stroll over the sea. However the first pier was actually built 23 years before Victoria took to the throne-Ryde pier on the Isle of Wight. It was built to accommodate ferries and is still used for this purpose today.

Piers became increasingly popular with the Victorians who used piers as a way of disembarking boats without having to get wet! However, people soon began to

enjoy just having a walk up and down them, taking in the fresh sea air. Pavilions and theatres were soon added to the structures to provide entertainment and in 1872, Hastings pier in East Sussex became the first purpose built pleasure pier.

By 1914, there were over 100 piers all over the British coastline, a huge engineering feat. However, they are now under threat with almost half of these having disappeared today. Some of them have fallen victim to the power of the waves, storms and fires, others have begun to crumble and decay and yet they still remain an iconic part of the British seaside holiday. 70% of visitors say that they enjoy a walk along a pier during their visits to the beach! Some of the lucky piers have undergone massive transformations and remain very popular. Blackpool's Central Pier is home to a fairground, Weston-Super-Mare's Grand Pier has a go-karting track and Bournemouth's Pier has its very own zip line to the beach. They are definitely the places to go for some exciting summer fun!

### DID YOU KNOW?

The longest pleasure pier in the world can be found in Southend-on-Sea in the South of England. It stretches a huge 1.34 miles into the Thames estuary, that's equivalent to 1,782 7 year old children lying end to end!

It was built because Southend's coast is made up of mudflats and so the sea never really gets very deep, even when the tide is in. This meant that boats weren't able to dock close to the beach or at all at low tide and so people were choosing to visit other seascides instead. The local people didn't want to miss out on the potential tourism and so the huge pier was built to allow boats to dock and people to disembark.

### QUICK BUILD

This week's quick build is...a pier!



## 7. SEAGULLS

No trip to the seaside is complete without the sound of squawking seagulls and trying to protect your ice creams from these noisy birds!

There are lots of different species of gulls and we generally see herring gulls, lesser black backed gulls, great black backed gulls and black headed gulls during our trips to see the sea. They are very clever, very cunning and very resourceful birds. Much like the ice cream and the pier, they are a seaside staple and can often be seen soaring overhead, looking out for an easy meal. They can even unhinge their jaws to swallow large prey like crabs and fish (and your ice cream!) Some species, like herring gulls, can often be seen foraging in shallow water where they sometimes find small crabs. They then fly up into the sky and drop the crabs onto rocks and stones below to crack open the shells.

Seagulls are highly intelligent birds and will mob potential predators and intruders who may pose a threat to their young. They are also very pushy and will happily just help themselves to whatever they want, even if it doesn't belong to them!

Now, seagulls can be a little bit too pushy when it comes to foraging and can be quite scary with their squawking and snatching. So, in an attempt to stop them stealing chips, a council in Dorset has employed two other birds to scare them away; a pair of bald eagles named Winnie and Kojak. The gulls are not injured using this method as they see the eagles perched on their handlers, decide that they pose a threat to them and choose to stay away leaving families to eat their chips in peace!

### DID YOU KNOW?

It is a little known fact that herring gulls are able to see ultraviolet light, something that we cannot. It means that they can pick up finer colour details on plumage so whilst individual birds may look very similar to us, to the herring gulls they are actually very different. They also have incredible eyesight in daylight and pretty good night vision as well!

### QUICK BUILD

This week's quick build is...a seagull!

