

## TEACHER'S NOTES

### Festivals: May Day: Make a maypole

by Julian L'Enfant

**Level:** Beginner / Elementary

**Time needed:** 30 mins

**Materials:** for each pair of students: one cardboard tube from wrapping paper, kitchen foil or kitchen roll, some tissue paper, some streamers, glue, scissors and a stapler

#### Project: Make a maypole

##### Procedure

- 1 Show a picture of a maypole and explain that dancing around a maypole is a tradition in May in England.
  - 2 Give each pair of pupils a roll and ask them to decorate it with the tissue paper.
  - 3 Each pair then selects four to six coloured streamers and fastens them to the top of the tube. (Perhaps the best way to fasten them is with a stapler.) Let the streamers go into the top of the tube before fastening.
  - 4 Choose one of the children to hold a maypole above his or her head.
  - 5 Give the children one streamer each to hold and demonstrate what they need to do. Let the pupils weave in and out and change direction on your instruction. The rest of the class can clap, or chant along with you as you give the instructions. After one or two renditions, the children change direction.
- 1, 2, 3, 4, *walk around the maypole.* (The children walk around the pole.)  
*In and out, in and out, 1, 2, 3, 4.* (They weave in and out.)
- 6 Encourage the pupils to work with another pair and create a pattern on their 'maypole' by weaving the streamers in and out and moving from left to right and then right to left.
  - 7 The pupils compare their maypole patterns.
  - 8 The class maypoles can be put on display.

##### Websites and other ideas:

<http://www.todaysparent.com/recipe/vegetarian/cream-scones-recipe/>

A recipe for cream scones

<http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/customs/questions/mayday.htm>

May Day information and pictures

<http://www.first-school.ws/activities/occasions/may-day.htm>

May Day crafts

<http://papertoys.com/queenscrown.htm>

Make a queen's crown. Once this is made, have a class election where a May King and Queen are voted for. As a variation, all of the children could wear the crown they made and be May Kings and Queens.

[www.azcentral.com/ent/dead/crafts/paperflowers.html](http://www.azcentral.com/ent/dead/crafts/paperflowers.html)

Make paper flowers following the instructions on this page.