Blaenavon and the World Beyond

Activity 1 - Materials used in the design of the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre

1. As you approach the building what are your first impressions?
Do you think that the building blends into its surroundings or does it stand out?

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2. In the space below, draw the front of the building or the reception area. Label your drawing to show what you consider to be key features and the materials used.

3. In terms of design, what do you think of the look and feel of the building?
Do you think the old and new parts work well together?

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4. Fill in the grid below to identify some of the materials used in the building.
Why do you think that these materials were chosen?

Item/ feature	Material used	Justification for choice
Window frames		
Spiral staircase		
Staircase side		
Wood flooring		
Staircase handrail		

5. What alternative materials could the window frames have been made of?
Why do you think the designers decided against these options?

_____
_____
_____
_____

6. In the café area, why do you think glass was used for such a large area?
Is it effective? What are the advantages and disadvantages of using glass?

_____
_____
_____
_____

7. Look at the colours that have been used throughout the building (muted green, grey, white etc). Why do you think these colours have been chosen?

_____
_____
_____
_____

8. Can you identify any local or traditional materials which have been used in the building? Why do you think they were selected and used?

_____
_____
_____
_____

9. Why do you think the green roof systems which have been planted above the café and outside the large meeting room upstairs?

_____
_____
_____
_____

10. What features of the building do you think are sustainable?

_____
_____
_____
_____

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Activity 2 - Graphic design at the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre

1. What design items in the building promote the Blaenavon World Heritage site?

2. What images are used on the promotional materials? Why have they been chosen?

3. What do you think about the colours used on the promotional materials and wall displays? Why have they been chosen?

4. Find the symbols below on the wall displays. What do they represent?

Symbol	What it stands for and explanation
UNESCO	
PATRIMONIO MUNDIAL · WORLD HERITAGE · PATRIMOINE MONDIAL	

5. Look at the reception desk as you enter the building. What was the inspiration for its design? Why do you think the black and orange colours were chosen?

Theme: 1

Key Stage: 3

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Teachers' Notes

Focus of the Activities

Activity 1 uses the building of the Blaenavon World Heritage Centre as the focus for learning. The aim is to further pupils' understanding and knowledge of materials and why they are used. Pupils will also need to consider how sustainability is integrated into the design of the building.

Activity 2 focuses on the graphic design of the materials produced to advertise and promote the Blaenavon World Heritage site. The aim is to get pupils to think about why certain images and colours have been used and how they reflect the nature and values of the Blaenavon World Heritage site.

Links with the Design & Technology National Curriculum

The activities cover the following aspects of the KS3 Programme of Study:

Skills:

- Identify and apply knowledge and understanding about technological, sustainability and health and safety issues to develop ideas for products that are achievable and practical.

Making:

- Learn about the properties and characteristics of materials and apply this knowledge and understanding.
- Consider issues of sustainability when choosing and using materials.

Range:
Giving pupils an opportunity to:

- Investigate, analyse and evaluate products in order to acquire technological knowledge.
- Learn about the responsible use of materials and consider issues of sustainability.
- Reflect on the work of architects and designers.
- Look at materials in a different context.