

Design as a personal identity

Lesson Plan – Key Stages 3-5

Skills that you'll use

- You will evaluate the cultural relevance of design in personal identity
- You will critically evaluate everyday design



Materials needed

- Pencil or pen
- Some paper
- Scissors



Activity plan

Introduction

(10 mins)

Designer [Alix Bizet](#) was interested in the way that hair was a part of people's identity. Coming from a dual heritage background herself, Alix knew that styling her hair came with its own issues, but it also showed her cultural identity. Alix began to look at hair as a potential design material to show an area's cultural makeup. Looking at the floor of a barbers shop in a predominately Afro-Caribbean area it's easy to see dark and curly hair, but if you go to a mainly white area, the hair becomes straight, brown and blonde.

This gave Alix an idea; by collecting hair from hairdressers and barbers in a particular area, she could show the neighbourhood's cultural makeup. But how to present that hair...? Alix hit on the idea of felting human hair to make up clothing. In the project, known as 'Hair by Hoodie', Alix worked with two schools with different students' ethnicities to make two hoodies that used hair collected from their local hairdressers. The two hoodies looked and felt very different.

[Watch the video](#) with Alix Bizet.



Activity plan

Discuss

(5-10 mins)

- When was the last time you had a haircut? Was it at a hairdresser or at home? Were you happy with the haircut?
- What type of hair does your family have? Is it easy to style? How do you style your hair, and what does it say about you?
- What do you think the waste hair from your local hairdresser would look like? Would it all be one type of hair or a mix of different hair that comes from people from different ethnic backgrounds?

Research

(10 mins)

Take a look around your home.

- What do your surroundings say about your cultural background? What about your waste?
- What do the things that you're throwing away say about your heritage, experiences, and cultural tastes?
- What does your home say about you?



Activity plan



Activity

(20 mins)

- Collect five to ten objects from around your home and lay them out carefully on the floor.
- Arrange them neatly and take a photograph of them. Make sure that they are objects that you feel reflect your identity or the identity of your family. Maybe they can show off your interests and hobbies, or perhaps they can talk about the mixture of cultures and backgrounds that are important to you.
- Create labels for each item and make sure you list the following;
 - The name of the item
 - Where it came from and who gave it to you
 - Who or where it was designed (you may have to research this)
 - A brief paragraph on why it is important to you

Optional tasks:

- Create your own mini-Design Museum of you.
- Research the origins of your items and find a common theme to the designs; maybe the country of origin, the decade they were made in or their relevance to you and your family.
- You can give your museum a name and write an introduction text highlighting what the objects say about your identity and culture influences.

- Share your designs with the Design Museum online using **#DesignFromHome**