Discover Ancient Egypt

So what we've got here is, we've got an example of how you would use Sandbox within your teaching and learning. This is based on what you would have used if you've used the Ancient Egypt resource, the VR. This was the discovery in the desert activity. So you had to use a VR headset, and that would take you to a very atmospheric place. It would take you to this discovery, and you would then have to write about your experience of doing that. That was quite exclusive, because not everyone has access to VR headsets.

So what we've got here is a way to actually to use the magic window effect, to get into that, and to take the pupils there. So the supporting materials around this would be a classic story starter activity; so we'd have the first opening paragraphs, which would show the kind of language, it would model, the kind of language we'd be looking for them to use in their writing and their descriptions; you know, the level of adjectives, connectives and the way that they would use that language to describe what they were discovering as well.

So what I'm going to do now is I'm going to scale that up to full size. There we go. So now we can see that we can actually go for a walk around this now. So we're now in that scenario. So again, this is our magic window. This is the thing that's taking us through here and into this environment itself.

So you can see we can actually go for a walk around things and you can see where you can see the floor - it works really well, and you can see people through the doorway there.

So this is quite similar, really to our virtual reality experience. But the thing is, is that we're using our feet as well. You don't do that in VR normally, you're standing there and you're using a controller to move around. But when you're actually walking around and you're exploring and you're looking at things, it is very, very different because your brain is telling you it's there. And so it doesn't take long, about 20, 30 seconds before when you're going through something like this..., you're thinking to yourself, I've got to be careful. I don't want to walk into things. You start moving around and you can walk through! Then, of course, we just turn around and there it is; there's the doorway that we've just come through. And where we started from in our journey.

Now, if you do this outside, it's fantastic. Say you took this out, if you're lucky enough to have any sports areas outside,or fields and of course, you can see the grass underneath it all, or if you've got gravel as well, the gravels even better, because it looks a bit like sand. But you can imagine that using this outside, it's quite something because then you're filming up and you can see the sky above you and the children will be like going in and out of it, and you can film them going through behind it. And also what's fantastic as well, you might want to put a green screen behind that and actually use some pupil drawn imagery to use as the green screen background. So that's a really powerful way to use this too. So mix and match.

Of course, we can record our journey through, so you press record on this now, and now it starts; I can be speaking about “Here I am in my, you know, after hours of travelling through the desert, I've come across these amazing temples, the ruins... and that's all being recorded. And you can see that that's there. And I can share that. I can delete it or just save it straight on to my Ipad, so I can just save it to a different camera roll. I’ll just do that.”

And that's all from that, that tiny little thing. I'm just going to scale it up again so you can see how that works.

I didn't realise they had vans back in Ancient Egypt, but...hey!