**Activity 10: The Plane**

**Collection Areas:** The Bristol Freighter Plane on the Bristol Green, number 22 on the map.

**Curriculum Links:**

* ***Social Science.***
* ***Technology:*** Technological Knowledge and Nature of Technology.
* ***The Arts:*** Practical knowledge.

**Topics/Themes:** History, Transportation.

**Resources Kit:** Photos of plane, interesting facts, pencils, sharpeners, paper, clipboards, Questions for Viewing, Guide for Teachers / Helpers

**Time estimation:**10-15mins. Allow extra time if incorporating sketching the plane.

**Goals:**

Students will be able to:

* Acknowledge how aircraft has developed and changed over time.
* Make links to how the design of this plane contributed to the development of our economy and society.
* Students will learn and practice the techniques of observational drawing.

**Guide for teachers/helpers**. What to do at this activity:

1. Let students explore the plane first.
2. As they look around, ask them the questions for viewing to support their thinking.
3. Come back together as a group and read the history of the plane and share with them some of the facts about the plane.
4. There are paper and pencils in the resource box for students to do an observational sketch of the plane. Ensure students to name their artworks and put them in their bags to take home. Please ensure all materials are returned to the resource box.

**Questions for viewing (**before giving them the story of facts of the plane)**:**

* Take a look at the plane, have you ever seen a plane that opens at the front? Why do you think it opens at the front?
* How is this plane different from a plane you might have been in, or pictures of a plane you have seen?
* What do you think the plane was used for?
* How do you think the plane got here?

**The history of the plane:**

The Bristol Freighter plane was the last of the Bristol model freighters flying in the Straits Air Freight Express (SAFE) Fleet. The freighter planes were made for the military to carry large amounts of freight to other countries. The Bristol Freighter was flown onto Wakapuaka mudflats on 20 November 1986 where it was stripped of its wings and tail and towed to the park. The plane was retired from military use as it was replaced by a new type of plane, the Hawker Siddeley Andovers in the 1970s. The Bristol Freighter now sits tall and proud on the Bristol Green. There is another type of freight plane preserved in Blenheim and another in the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) Museum in Christchurch, and a fourth one back in Bristol.

**Facts about the plane and History for teacher/parent helper to tell the students:**

* The plane’s full name is: ‘Freighter Mk.31m’. When it got to NZ, it was renamed as ‘Merchant Buccaneer’.
* The Bristol Freighter was built in the city of Bristol, England in 1953. It went to Pakistan, then arrived in New Zealand in 1966.
* The words on the side of the plane ‘SAFE Air’, stand for ‘Straights Air Freight Express’. This is the name of the company that owned the plane and used it (just like Air NZ, or Jet star).
* The Merchant Buccaneer was used to transport freight from Blenheim to Paraparaumu (Kāpiti coast). It was also used to transport freight, and people to the Chatham Islands. The Chatham Islands are New Zealand’s most eastern Islands and the plane trip took three hours. This trip was so noisy that people had to wear earplugs!
* On November 20th, 1986, The Plane took its last flight from Woodbourne (Blenheim) to Nelson. The needed to get to plane to Founders Park so it could retire, but how could they get it from the airport to Founders park!? (Great place to pause and ask the students how they thought the plane actually got here…). They landed The Plane on the mudflats at low tide in Wakapuaka, took the wings and the tail off, towed it with a tractor to the spot it is now and put it back together again. It hasn't moved since!
* This plane was the main mode of cargo transportation between the North Island and the South Island before the Inter Islander was built.

**Post Visit Classroom Activities:**

Discussion and research about how cargo was moved around in the past, how it is moved around now, and how you think it might be moved around in the future, especially around New Zealand and between our islands.