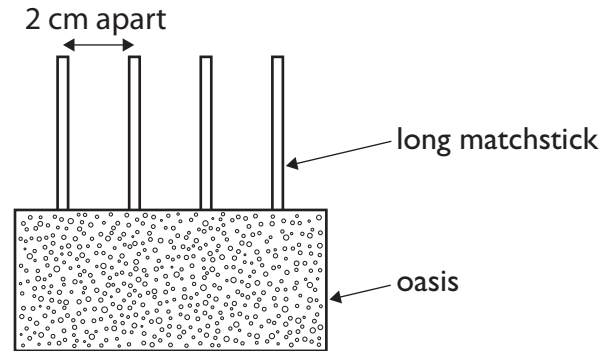


Wattle and daub

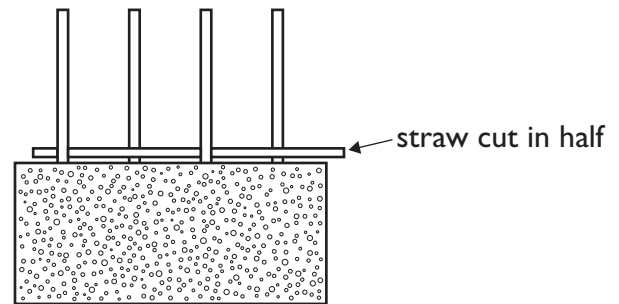
1. Stick four long matchsticks in a piece of oasis as figure 1 shows.

Figure 1



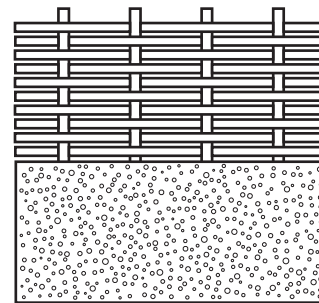
2. Take a piece of straw that has been cut in half and thread it through the matchsticks as figure 2 shows.

Figure 2



3. Take another piece of straw and thread it through the matchsticks as figure 3 shows.

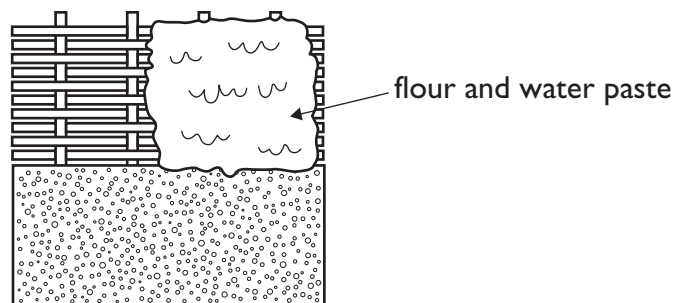
Figure 3



4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 until you have ten straws woven between the matchsticks.

5. Mix some flour and water to make a paste and daub it on the straws as figure 4 shows.

Figure 4



6. Leave for a few minutes to see if the paste drips off the straws. If it does, make a thicker paste. Coat your paste over the straws.

7. Leave overnight to let the paste set.

Wattle and daub

Age range

- Years 3/4 (SP4/5).
- Years 5/6 (SP6/7).

Resources

For each group you need a piece of oasis about 8 cm across. Four long matches with their heads cut off, five straws cut in half lengthways (you may like to prepare these before the lesson), flour, water, a bowl, a spoon.

Using the worksheet

If you have done activity **4** you may like to remind the students and say that in many timber framed houses the gaps between the timbers were filled with wattle and daub. This was made by weaving small branches of hazel together and covering them with a mixture of clay, dung and horsehair. This mixture was then coated with a thin layer of plaster. Tell the students that they are going to make a piece of wattle and daub but instead of hazel branches they will be using matchsticks and straws and instead of clay, dung and horsehair they will be using flour and water. You may like to link this activity to **9A** 'Make a leaded window' and **13B** 'Make a house'.

Younger students

The students may need to make sure that they sink the matchsticks about one and a half centimetres into the oasis. They should not pull the matchsticks from side to side as this will make the holes larger and the sticks will wobble. They may need help following the weaving pattern. They may need reassuring that if a matchstick does lean when a piece of straw is added it may lean back again when a second piece of straw is added. Care may be needed when making the flour paste. You may like to make some up for the students to use. It should be quite thick so that all of it does not flow off the straws and onto the oasis.

Outcomes

The students:

- Know how wattle and daub was made in Tudor times.
- Can follow instructions to make a model.
- Can make a piece of wattle and daub that does not have any gaps in it.

Older students

The students may wonder why the straws have to be split. The tension in full straws can pull the matchsticks out of place so cutting them lengthways and using half straws reduces this tension and keeps the matchsticks upright. The students may like to work in groups or individually.

Outcomes

The students:

- Know how wattle and daub was made in Tudor times.
- Can make a piece of wattle and daub that does not have any gaps in it.