



Inventive Vents: Join the Inventive Vents Challenge!

MOLA has been working with Our Hut (www.ourhut.co.uk) on the *Inventive Vents* project and has produced this animation to show how important excavations of ventilation shafts are in understanding the history of London. Together with the animation we have made *Inventive Vents* project resources available for home-schooling families and invite you to take part in the fun and exciting ***Inventive Vents Challenge***: design your own ventilation shaft and draw, paint, collage or make a model of your idea. Instructions and ideas to help you can be found on the next page.

The *Inventive Vents* project, run by Our Hut and funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, celebrates ventilation shafts in London. There are many weird and wonderful ventilation shafts on our streets, but you may not have noticed them – they often appear as public sculpture or are disguised as small buildings. Ventilation shafts are needed wherever there are underground spaces in use - underground railways, sewers, underground car parks and tunnels - to let hot and polluted air out and introduce clean air, and act as clues to the city beneath our feet. With our *Inventive Vents* project we've been finding and recording ventilation shafts across London on the interactive Layers of London map - have a look - it's fascinating! <https://www.layersoflondon.org/> If you go to the *Inventive Vents* collection you'll be able to see examples of vents.

The *Inventive Vents* project includes courses of school workshops, a programme of public events to help the public engage with ventilation shafts and underground London, and a mapping project designed to locate as many ventilation shafts across London as possible and record them on the Layers of London interactive map. For more information see our website, www.ourhut.co.uk.

The project will culminate in a final exhibition in Central London as well as free online resources for teachers and two publications – an Ad-Vent Calendar for Christmas 2020 and a gazetteer featuring the most interesting vents found across London.



Inventive Vents Challenge: How to Join in

Parents and carers: The ***Inventive Vents Challenge*** is a fun and interesting activity suitable for all the children – they could work individually or in a team. If you would like to extend the project we have provided a range of resources to help, listed on the next page. These are most suitable for 7-13 year olds but can be adapted for other ages. The project will encourage creativity and increase your children's understanding of underground London and how the city works. It links with all areas of the curriculum, as listed overleaf.

Now to the challenge!

We'd like you to design your own inventive vent and then make a model, drawing, painting or collage of it and send us a photo and some information about it. We'll then put it on our Instagram and the most exciting ones will be shown in our final exhibition. We'll also be awarding free copies of our exciting 2020 'Ad-Vent Calendar' to our 50 favourite inventive vents – so get designing!

Inventive Vents Challenge instructions/tips for creating a great design

- Before you start do some research – have a look at our Inventive Vents slide show, at the Inventive Vents collection on the Layers of London map or see what you can find on the internet. You could also try to spot some vents in your local area when you're out for your exercise
- Look at Our Hut's instagram @ourhutarchitecture or Twitter @ourhutUK to see the work children have done in school
- For more inspiration (and just for good fun!) play our 'Ventequences' game – see instructions on Ventequences document
- Decide what your vent will be for – will it ventilate underground railways, sewers, an underground car park, a pedestrian tunnel or some other underground space?
- You could decide on an actual place to put your vent and take a photo so that you can imagine it in that site. When you've done your design you could superimpose a picture of your vent onto the site if you'd like to – either by sticking it on or by using computer software.
- Think about how to make your design really exciting – remember the vent would be seen by the public on the street, so it should be interesting and a positive feature in the built environment!
- What materials would it be made from if it were to be built? Try to show these in your drawing or model
- Think about whether you'd like it to be bold and colourful, reflective or to be more natural to blend in with the landscape
- Create a picture or model of your design – use anything you have to hand eg plastic and card packaging etc for model-making
- Send a picture of your work to us by email: ourhutteam@ourhut.co.uk and we'll put it on our instagram. Tell us about it: what is special about your design? What would it ventilate? What would it be made of?