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### Emma Morton off grid self- sufficiency



When I teach children how to use the internet when teaching them research skills, I warn them about keeping to keywords, about the danger of going down irrelevant 'rabbit holes', about wasting time and not seeing the wood for the trees.

Creating my learning space in Minecraft involved me doing everything I usually warn against! I forgot about the 'learning objectives', I became immersed in irrelevancies, such as trying to catch a cat and setting fire to my bridge. I forgot to think outside the box in coming up with an innovative design for an educational space and instead spent hours planting crops and 'spawning' livestock.

I'm not sure the build helps explain a complex idea of any sort, but it did lead me to some 'playful' learning. I wanted to make my farm off grid, so I have solar panels, a water tank under the veranda and a wind turbine. I noticed that it rained a lot in the realm, which was a bit disappointing for my solar electricity plans. There is plenty of animal husbandry, including a turtle breeding area and chickens and horses. The cats and dog are tamed and there's a fox roaming to keep down the rabbits. The vegetable patch means we are self-sufficient food-wise. I chose a hilltop setting, so there is a view to look at. In the garden, is a red wool tent and a campfire for some outdoor adventures. Across the bridge, there is a terracotta terrace for yoga and sundowners. And finally, some rowing boats to take out to see the dolphins and turtles. I certainly learnt lots of problem solving skills this week.