

Homes in the Past Y1, Y2, Y3

What was home life like in the past?

Children will explore artefacts during this hands-on investigation of household objects used by people in the past to wash, iron, clean, light and provide entertainment.

A one hour classroom-based taught session led by an Education Officer.



What happens in the session?



In this hands-on session children get a taste of everyday life before the advent of electricity. On arrival at the classroom the children will don Victorian-style aprons and dolly caps or flat caps and waistcoats. We then discuss how we can learn about the past from objects. We use an old school desk and related artefacts to explore similarities and differences between the present and the past.

The children will be asked to explore the artefacts in the classroom. They will investigate what the objects are; how they were used and to think about what we would use today. The class will divide into two halves. One half of the children will use 'washday' equipment to investigate washing and ironing clothes before the development of electric washing machines and irons. The other half of the class will try four shorter activities (exploring equipment used for carpet beating; boot cleaning; making tea and toast; preparing for bed). The two halves of the class then swop over so the children have the opportunity to investigate all the artefacts.

In the plenary we discuss the children's observations and ask them to think about the advantages of modern household equipment. We conclude the session by briefly exploring some examples of leisure in the past (children's toys; seaside holidays and a gramophone).

Cost: £3.50 per pupil. (Minimum charge £70.00 per group)

Availability: Term time weekdays 1 Nov 2010 to 8 April 2011

Location: Room 2 in the Learning Loft, 2nd Floor of the Great Western Warehouse
Please bring at least 5 adults to assist the children. Max group size 32 children.

Advance booking is essential. Contact the Learning Centre to check availability and book.

What will my class learn during the session?

The session's objectives are that the children will be taught:

- how to raise and answer questions about historical artefacts;
- that household objects used by people in the past were different from those used by people today;
- that objects are useful sources that can tell us about life in the past.

How does the session link to the National Curriculum?

KS1 History 2b, 4a, 4b, 6a, 6b

QCA Scheme History Unit 1 How are our toys different from those in the past?
 Unit 2 What were homes like long ago?

The session could also be used by KS2 classes studying the Victorians as the artefacts used in the session were typical of those in use around the end of the Nineteenth Century.

What else can my class see at MOSI that's relevant to the session?

Making of Manchester Gallery: a display depicts slum interiors from 1840's Manchester. Ask the children to think about what life would be like without a clean water supply and toilets.

Underground Manchester Gallery: A section of the gallery displays washing equipment from a municipal bathhouse.

The Electricity Gallery: The gallery contains four room sets depicting typical kitchens and living rooms from the 1930s and 1950s. Children could identify and discuss the advantages of some of the labour-saving equipment on display in the rooms.

Collections Centre: The centre contains a range of domestic objects from the past.

What could I do in class to prepare the children?

Before the visit it would be helpful to discuss with the children the equipment used for common household tasks in their homes.

You could also read *The Whatsit* (Oxford Reading Tree, Stage 5) with the children as a starting point for a discussion on the role and purpose of museums. The children in the story find an unusual object and take it to a museum to find out what it is. You could discuss with the children their experiences of visiting museums and the idea of making and keeping a collection. This could lead onto the children showing and talking about collections they have made and exploring the idea of collecting for a hobby.

What could I do to follow up on the session?

Suggestions for follow up activities can be downloaded from the KS1 History page in the Learning section of our website.

How can I feedback to the Museum?

We will give you an evaluation form to complete at the end of the session. Please complete this and send it back. Feedback from practitioners such as yourself is absolutely essential in helping us develop our sessions to ensure they meet the needs and enhance the learning of the children who participate in our sessions.