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Bringing your class to visit Epping Forest District Museum

Epping Forest District Museum, based in Waltham Abbey, Essex has recently reopened after a major Heritage Lottery Funded refurbishment project. There is increased display space, improved facilities and access with a lift to all floors, as well as **brand new education room**. The museum, partly situated in a Tudor house dating from 1520, tells the story of the Epping Forest District from prehistoric times to the present day.

Workshops are available on a wide range of topics relevant for the National Curriculum. All workshops give pupils the chance to work hands on with real museum objects to develop their subject knowledge and learn the skills of historical investigation.

The Education Service has been established for over 20 years, providing a valuable service to schools both within the district and beyond. Catherine Hammond, Education Officer, is a qualified teacher with many years' experience both in the classroom and in museum education work.

Booking information

- All workshops are delivered by the Education Officer
- Workshops can be booked on any day of the week, subject to availability. Thursdays are good days as the museum is closed to the public so you will have the museum to yourselves. On other days of the week the galleries are open to members of the public.
- Visits to the museum usually last 2 hours. One hour will be spent in the education room on a workshop of your choice. The second hour can be spent in the galleries doing activities linked to your topic if available, or more generic historical activities linked to the displays if not.

- Up to two classes at a time can be accommodated on site. If there are two classes, one class will take part in the workshop while the other class does the gallery activities, swapping over after one hour.
- The class that is working in the galleries will be divided into three groups. These groups will rotate around different gallery areas. They will need to be supervised by one of your adult helpers, but activities and resources will be provided by the museum.
- To make a booking email museum@eppingforestdc.gov.uk or call 01992 564994 and ask for the Education Officer

Cost

Schools within Epping Forest District and the Borough of Broxbourne

- £4 per child, with a minimum group charge of £45

Schools outside the above areas

- £5 per child, with a minimum group charge of £55

Payment will be requested by invoice from Epping Forest District Council approximately two weeks after the workshop.

Shop

There is a small shop on site, selling pocket money priced items – traditional toys, pencils etc. If you would like your pupils to visit the shop, please indicate this at the time of booking. They will be able to visit the shop in small groups as part of their gallery activities.

Workshop Topics for Nursery and KS 1 groups

Old Fashioned Washday

The old nursery rhyme, ‘Twas on a Monday morning ...’ forms the basis of this workshop to help children learn all about the different tasks and tools used to wash clothes a long time ago. A lively interactive workshop where the children get involved both with the singing and the washing using a range of original objects.

Children will be based on the carpet for this workshop, with some chosen to come out and use the objects to complete the washday tasks.

This workshop uses images projected on to a whiteboard, with original objects including washtub, washboard, washing dolly, mangle, soap, pegs, clothing, slug and flat irons

Toys in the Past

Ellen Buxton lived locally over 100 years ago. In her diary she drew pictures of her brothers and sisters playing with their favourite toys. Ellen's sketches are combined with real old toys from the museum's collection so children can investigate whether or not the toys Ellen played with over 100 years ago are very different to the toys they play with today.

Children will start on the carpet with some chosen to come and try some toys, finishing with everyone at tables trying a wide selection of old toys.

This workshop uses images projected on to a whiteboard, with a mix of original and replica items including but not limited to wooden hoops, china doll, cup and ball, whip and top, clockwork toys, wooden toys

Homes in the Past

Children investigate 'mystery' domestic objects from 100 years ago. They use all their senses of touch, sight, smell and hearing to try and work out what the objects are. They develop their speaking and listening skills as they explain what they think their object was used for and listen to others describing their objects. Finally, looking at all the objects together, we discuss what we use in their place today, and what they can tell us about what life was like in homes 100 years ago.

Children will start on the carpet trying to identify one object. They will then work in 5 groups at their tables trying to identify 5 more objects: there will be one object on each table, which is then passed from table to table.

This workshop uses all original objects - there will be a chamber pot, washing dolly, oil lamp, slug iron, hot water bottle and carpet beater

Victorian Seaside

Ellen Buxton took her diary on her seaside holidays to Cromer with her family over 100 years ago. She describes the fascinating train journeys to get there and the activities she got up to on the beach. We use Ellen's diary to compare what her seaside holidays were like with what ours are like today, and explore the contents of her suitcase to see if the clothes she wore and what she packed were different to what we would pack today.

Children will be based on the carpet for this workshop, with one chosen to come out and dress up as Ellen, and up to 7 children asked to choose an object from her case to try and identify with the help of the rest of the class.

This workshop uses images projected onto a whiteboard, with replica and original objects including Victorian girl's clothing (corset, crinoline, skirt, jacket, hat) and a parasol, bucket and spade, penny lick, coin, swimming dress, codd bottle, button hook and boot.

Great Fire of London

We investigate the story of the Great Fire of London, using Epping Forest District Museum, a Grade II listed Tudor house, as an example of how houses were built at the time to explore the risk of fire. We also examine replica maps from the National Archives showing what London looked like before and after the fire to see what effect it had on the city.

Children work in 6 groups (one group can be based on the carpet) to start with examining the maps. Then they sit together on the carpet looking at images on the whiteboard, with some children being asked to choose an object from the box to investigate the risk of fire in houses at the time.

This workshop uses images projected onto a whiteboard, with replica objects including a watering pot, and maps of London before and after the fire.

'Children loved the opportunity to touch and feel artefacts - with good learning conversations.'

Feedback from teacher on Great Fire of London workshop

KS 2 Workshops

Prehistory: Life in the Stone Ages

This new workshop has been developed to help schools deliver the prehistory element of the new primary history curriculum. Pupils will get to work hands on with ancient historical artefacts to understand the changes that occurred during the Stone Ages. Their investigations will be based around using a timeline to develop their understanding of chronology and change across a long period of time.

This workshop uses entirely original objects, plus additional resources

Romans

This is an interactive role-playing workshop. It is a very important day for Livia, the mistress of one of the area's most important villas. She is planning a banquet to show off her new bathhouse to her friends.

One of your pupils will be Livia, the rest are her slaves. The slaves work in groups based on different rooms in the villa. They have a selection of objects and need to work out what each one was used for so they can get their jobs done to make sure the banquet goes to plan.

This workshop uses both original and replica objects

Anglo Saxons

Pupils will learn about the work of archaeologists by investigating, analysing and recording information about objects in order to find out as much as possible about the people that made them. Pupils will develop important observational skills in this workshop as they learn to look for the little details that can reveal so much about the past.

Having researched their objects, pupils become the experts, presenting their findings back to the rest of the class. Then, using all the evidence seen in the workshop, pupils have to decide if the Anglo Saxons really do deserve to be thought of as coming from the Dark Ages.

This workshop uses both original and replica object

Tudors

Epping Forest District Museum is housed in a Tudor building, and we have a fascinating piece of evidence from two real Tudor people who lived here and left their initials carved on the fireplace. In this workshop pupils investigate more about what the lives of these two 'ordinary' Tudor people were like from the clothes they wore to the objects they had in their house.

Two pupils have the opportunity to get dressed up in replica clothes, before everyone gets to work with objects. We also use the built evidence of the Tudor house itself, which reveals a great deal about how Tudor people lived.

This workshop uses both original and replica objects

Victorians: Exhibiting the Victorians

This workshop is especially suitable for years 5 and 6. Pupils are put in the role of museum curators. We start by discussing what makes a good exhibition based on their own experiences of visiting museums and galleries, and consider issues affecting the display of museum objects.

Working in groups, pupils are given a selection of original Victorian objects on a particular theme such as homes, washday, fashion, toys and school. They have to work together to investigate what the objects are, then agree on a choice of just one that will go on display.

To finish, each group presents their choice to the rest of the class, giving good reasons as to why they chose that particular object to illustrate their theme, and why they rejected the others.

This workshop uses mostly original objects

World War 2: Home Front

This workshop is most suitable for years 5 and 6. Pupils work in groups, starting off with just one object. They have to try and work out what it is based on what they can observe and understand just from looking at it and touching it.

They are then given a wider selection of objects, which they can investigate to find clues to help them work out what their original object was used for. These also lead to investigation of some of the wider themes of the war such as air raids, rationing, black out and salvage and how these impacted on the lives of ordinary people.

To finish, each group presents their findings back to the rest of the class. We will also consider how these objects can help us to empathise with people and understand how their lives were affected by the war in this area.

This workshop uses all original objects