

Story Telling Homes of the Past Teachers Notes



Nursery and reception classes

This session lasts for 30-60 minutes depending on the class. Many of our schools team this session with 'Going on a bear hunt'. There is the option of a Tudor Bear Mask making workshop to go along side this session.

Your class will be met by our education staff dressed in Tudor costume. They will then take the class on a guided tour revealing the story Hall Place in the past. We will be visiting four different rooms where the children are asked to find four different costumed teddy bears.

Replica Tudor objects are also used to help the children understand what life was like in the past. **The aim of the tour is to get the children to recognise and talk about the differences between their homes and those of the past.**

We start in the Great Hall and compare it with a modern living room. This is the biggest room in the house and was used as a dining hall for eating and dancing. Just like in the past, the children will be taught a simple Tudor dance to enact.

Next is the Tudor Kitchen where we will talk about the differences in decoration, food, eating and cooking.

The Minstrels' Gallery was where the musicians played. Children will be asked to sing their favourite song loud enough for everyone in the Great Hall to hear. (Any song will do – perhaps one that you already use at school). Some children will be given simple drums and tambourines to play. Whilst up here we can take a closer look at the ceiling and the carved wooden bosses.

Lastly, in the Great Chamber we discuss the difference between bedrooms in the past and today. The children love to hear about the pee potty! We then ask the children to lie down on the floor in order to look at the beautifully ornate plaster ceiling. The ceiling is like a story book. It contains angels, mer-people, strange creatures, sea shells, flowers and fruit.

If you wish to extend your visit, take a look at the topiary on the west side of the house. These are shaped yew trees clipped to resemble chess pieces and heraldic creatures. Look out for the dragon!

Year one and two classes

KS1 classes will have the session as above but without the costumed Bears.

If you are studying homes in the past, you could team this session with Home Life in Victorian Britain. Toys and Games of the Past. Otherwise take a look at our Tudor Bitesize option.