



The History of Greenham Common

Whilst most people associate the name Greenham with the Cold War and protests about nuclear weapons, the area has a history which stretches back thousands of years to the Stone Age. Churches and chapels appeared with the spread of Christianity, whilst wealthy Victorians found Greenham the perfect place to live. The area has seen many changes and seems to have come a complete circle, finally being restored back to natural heathland.

AIMS

This unit aims to give children an understanding of the history of Greenham Common and how its use has changed over the years. It is important for children to have some understanding of the history of the area in which they live and to understand that they can play a part in the continuing development of Greenham Common. The story of the Newbury Coat provides children with an interesting local story and with the 'second' coat being on show at West Berkshire Museum in Newbury, the children could actually go and see a part of their local history!

WHAT DOES THIS UNIT CONSIST OF?

This unit consists of 2 different activities:

- ★ What is special about Greenham Common?
- ★ The Newbury Coat



What is special about Greenham Common?

DISCUSSION

The four discussion cards aim to get children thinking and working as a group to discuss issues and come up with their own ideas and thoughts. Split the class and give groups just one discussion card. Using the cards, encourage children to explore, develop and sustain ideas through discussion and then to share their ideas with the rest of the class once the activity has been completed.

What's so special about Greenham Common - History

How do we find out about the past?

"It is impossible to say that people lived on Greenham Common as far back as the Bronze Age! I mean, there are hardly going to be any photos are there? ... unless we're around there! How could we possibly know anything about people's lives on the Common all those years ago?"

This person does not believe that we can find out about people who lived on Greenham Common thousands of years ago. It is your job to show and explain to him how this is possible. You can carry out some of your own research, but the items below may be useful. Discuss it with your group.



These are remains of bronze age pottery.



This is a quernstone. It was used to grind corn in Roman times and was found at George's Farm.



This is a medieval seal.

Photographic evidence

"A tatty old black and white photo tells us virtually nothing about past lives. They are a waste of space!"

Use this photograph of a picnic on the Common in 1910 to show the person who said this that photos are a great way of finding out about the past! What can this and other old photos tell us about fashion, food, leisure activities and family life? Discuss it with your group.



History 2/3

What's so special about Greenham Common - History

A visit to Greenham?

This photo has just been found. It shows people on Greenham Common. Who are they? Why have they come there? How did they travel there? When do you think the photo was taken? What clues are there in the photo to help you? Discuss it with your group.



Cows allowed?

"The animals grazing on the Common completely spoil it! My dog is really frightened of the cows. I think grazing animals should be banned!"

This is a complaint from a local walker on the Common. Cattle and some ponies are allowed to roam on areas of the Common. It is important they are there. Why do you think this is? What do these animals do and how do they help the Common? What would happen if they were not there? How are you going to explain this to the angry walker? Discuss it with your group.



History 3/3

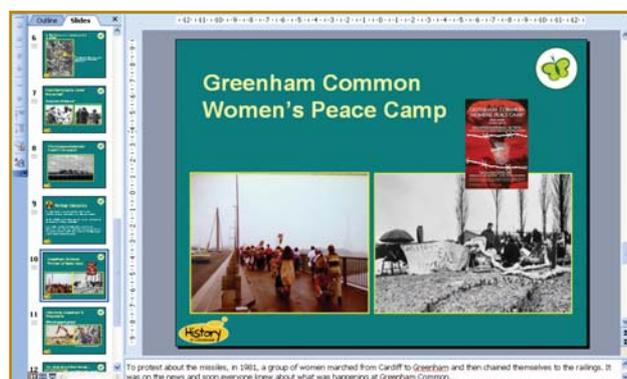
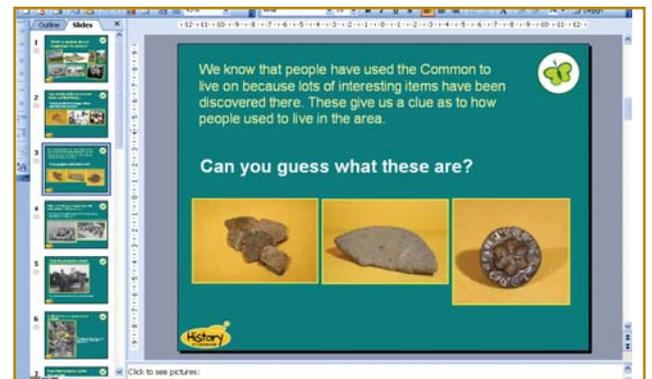
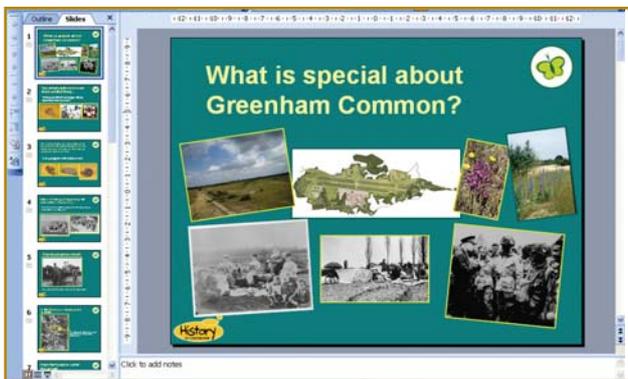
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- CURRICULUM LINKS** NC History: To identify differences between ways of life at different times
 To identify and describe reasons for historical changes
 How sources of information help us learn about the past
 To study how an aspect of the local area has changed over time
- Literacy: Speak & listen for a wide range of purposes in different contexts:
 (Take turns and different roles in a discussion, participate in conversation/discussion, make appropriate contributions, speak competently, explore, develop & sustain ideas through talk)



What is special about Greenham Common?

This PowerPoint presentation aims to give children an insight into the history of Greenham Common. It is a simple account, being suitable to use with Key Stage 2 children. It could be used as a simple introduction to the other units, if there is little understanding of the Common and its significance. This is designed to be used as a starting point and a selection of discussion topics are provided. A simpler, image only version is available with notes for the teacher, encouraging discussion in the class.

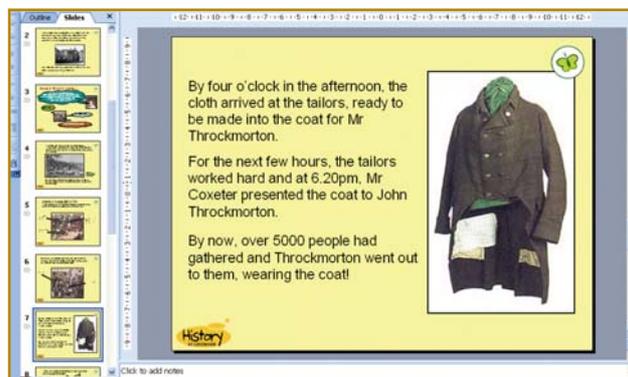
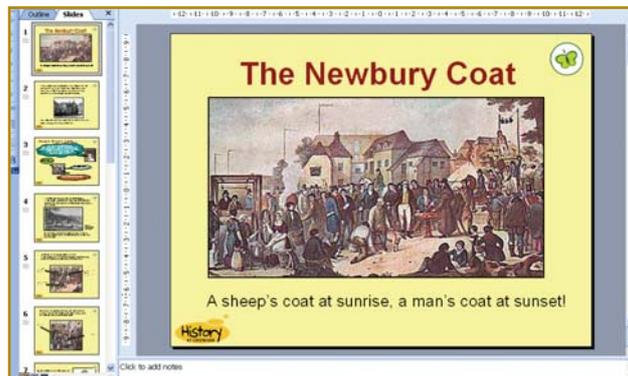


- CURRICULUM LINKS** NC History:
- To identify differences between ways of life at different times
 - To identify and describe reasons for historical changes
 - How sources of information help us learn about the past
 - To study how an aspect of the local area has changed over time



The Newbury Coat

The story of the Newbury Coat is a great way to introduce a piece of local history to children. The PowerPoint presentation tells the story in an easy, accessible way for both Key Stage 1 and 2 children. This presentation is suitable for use in a Literacy lesson, either being used with the whole class or by individuals at PCs. The activity then encourages children to re-write the text for a younger audience, sequencing the story and presenting it in a cartoon form.



The Newbury Coat - History

The Newbury Coat

You have watched the presentation about the Newbury coat. You now have to re-tell the story in the form of a cartoon, for a younger child. The cartoon will be on an A4 sheet of paper and it will be 8 frames. Use the planner below to decide what picture and text you will have on each of the frames.

The picture will be of	The text will say

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 To identify and describe reasons for historical changes
 How sources of information help us learn about the past
 To study how an aspect of the local area has changed over time
- Literacy: Read & write for a range of purposes:
 (retrieve information, sequence, and adapt texts)