

A VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS

KS 1/2 HISTORY AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Learning Objectives During this Day Course pupils should learn:

- ü To develop their understanding of the origins of Christmas traditions dating from Victorian times.
- ü To compare modern and Victorian traditions and customs.
- ü To interpret historical evidence from non-documentary sources, including original artefacts and customs.
- ü To gain an appreciation of the environment in winter and of the ways in which we can use it to learn about the past.

Pupils will also:

- ü Learn safely in a new environment;
- ü Gain an appreciation of the environment and understand their role in caring for it.

Adult : Pupil ratios

For this course CEES' recommended ratio for safety is **1 : 6 for KS1 and 1 : 8 for KS2**

Additional adults may be needed where individual pupils need 1 : 1 support

Other information

If you have time it would be useful for pupils to know the following songs, which we shall sing during the day: KS1 'O Christmas Tree' and the 'Twelve Days of Christmas'. KS2 'The Wassailing Song' and 'The twelve days of Christmas'. Pupils should wear Victorian-style costume (please see supplementary sheet for examples), but they will also need a warm coat and footwear suitable for working outside.

Day Course Programme

Where 2 classes are attending the course the introductory session will be common to both. Classes will then separate and sessions A and B will be interchangeable am and pm.

Introduction: On arrival a member of CEES staff will welcome your group to the Centre and describe the day's programme and the learning objectives. Pupils will be encouraged to think about the differences between Christmas celebrations in Victorian times and Christmas today.

Session A: This session is based outside in Wisbech Castle's extensive grounds. The pupils will have the opportunity to follow a tree trail to collect natural materials which will be used to make garlands and table decorations. They will then wassail and toast the fruit tree to ensure a good crop, before returning to gather round the fire site where they will be able to safely observe a yule log being burnt, toast marshmallows and sing Christmas songs.

Session B: This session is based in Wisbech Castle's Victorian kitchen and parlour. Pupils will be introduced to the relevance of Twelfth Night, its characters and the significance of the cake. Pupils will be given characters and accompanying riddles, and they will prepare model icing cake decorations for their character. In the parlour pupils will prepare the dining table for the festive season and play parlour games. The session will conclude with the celebration of Twelfth Night complete with decorated cake and acting out riddles.

Plenary: The group will reflect on their day and consider how well the learning objectives have been met.

Note: The actual programme may vary depending on number and needs of pupils, length of visit and weather conditions.

Relevant extracts from CEES risk assessments

See also guidance notes relating to health and safety overleaf

Hazard	Control measures
Severe weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEES staff are aware of daily forecast. • Alternative activities are substituted if weather conditions are particularly unfavourable. • In extreme cases, where guidance notes on clothing (see overleaf) have not been complied with pupils may be excluded from activities.
Uneven ground, low branches on trees, steep slopes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils and adults are made aware of expected standards of behaviour and, for example pupils are instructed to walk, not run, to look ahead, and to stay close to their supervisory adult.
Unfamiliar surroundings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults supervise directly, for example, walking beside the group and regularly checking that the entire group is present.
Handling clay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eyewash is readily available. • The working surfaces are wet-wiped and clean tools are provided. • Pupils with cuts or skin problems are provided with protective gloves.
Handling natural materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils are warned about known dangers regarding sharp, stinging and poisonous plants. • Pupils are instructed to wash hands thoroughly after handling natural materials and before eating.