

WEST BERKSHIRE MUSEUM

Learning and Participation Service **2015-16**



West Berkshire Museum reopened after refurbishment in August 2014. The museum is housed in two of the town's most historic buildings – the Cloth Hall and Corn Stores – and these are joined with a new purpose built link building containing a reception, shop, café and toilet/baby changing facilities. The entire museum is now fully accessible and has a lift at each end.

The museum's Learning and Participation Service is relatively new too, and there are plans to build on its school offer in the forthcoming years. The current offer includes: sessions/workshops, loan boxes and museum visits and trails.



West Berkshire
C O U N C I L

Sessions / workshops

The Learning and Participation Service offers a range of national curriculum-based (please request a session overview for more details), cross curricular sessions that can be delivered in school or at the museum. These include:

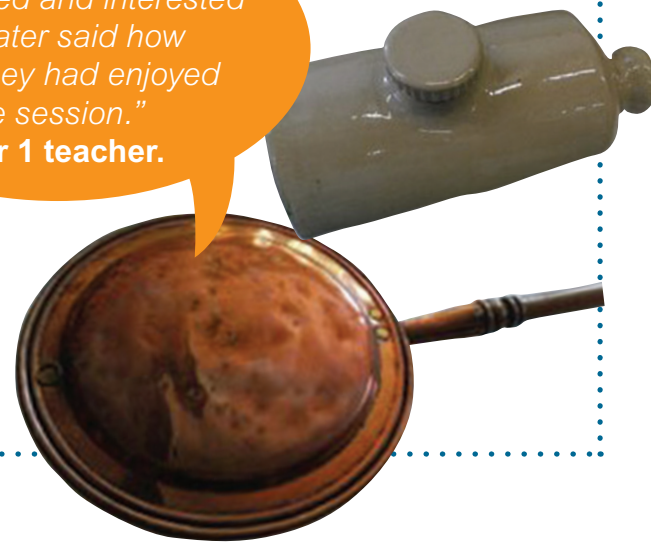
Everyday Objects Through Time*

KS1 45-60 minutes

Examining real objects used to warm the bed over time, the materials they are made from, how they look and feel, and how to use the objects – there are two activities involving a simple timeline.

"The children were all engaged and interested and later said how much they had enjoyed the session."

Year 1 teacher.



Roman Britain*

KS2 60-90 minutes

Examining a range of real Roman artefacts to see what they tell us about life in the past as well as considering how 'Romanised' the native Britons became.



"Super hands on session to stimulate the beginning of our Roman topic – the children really enjoyed it, as did I."

Year 4 teacher.

Rocks*

KS2 60-90 minutes

Based around the three categories of rocks and the rock cycle, this session includes a classification activity using rocks from the museum's collection.



"This was a really good session and the resources were excellent, just the right amount and level of reading. The activity sheets were also good."

Year 3/4 teacher.

"The objects were fantastic for the children to look at and get to touch. The activity sheet worked well and allowed the children to engage with the learning objectives."

Year 4 teacher.



The Stone Age*

KS2 60-90 minutes

Using real Stone Age flint tools and a mammoth's tooth to see what they tell us about Stone Age life as well as looking at the role of archaeology in telling us about the past.

NEW for 2016

Playtime*

KS1 45-60 minutes

This session introduces the children to toys (real and replica) played with in the past and encourages them to think about what they are made from, how they move and who might have played with them.



Home Front in World War I

KS2/3 60-90 minutes

This session explores censorship, patriotism, propaganda, recruitment and conscription through the use of facsimile material and links in with the fictitious family in the museum's exhibition. Not available in school, museum only.

**Session involves object handling.*

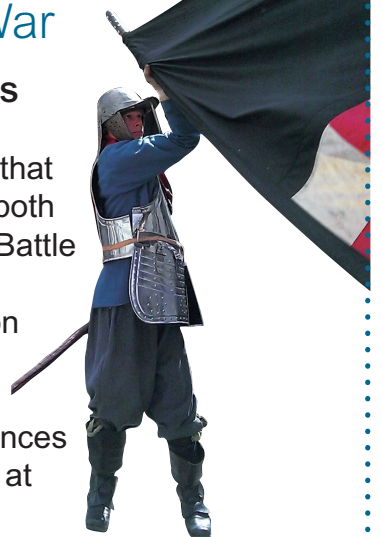
A session costs **£45** (for no more than a class of 35). For more information or to make a booking, please see contact information overleaf.

NEW Available now until Nov 2016.

English Civil War

KS2 60-90 minutes

Custom built session that can include either or both a talk about the First Battle of Newbury and /or a costumed presentation by a seventeenth century character telling of their experiences of the conflict and life at that time.



Loan boxes

We have a small selection of loan boxes. They are available to borrow for three weeks and need to be collected and returned by the school. There is a small charge of £15 per box which must be made before or on collection. The loan boxes themes are: Fossils, Medieval and Tudor, and English Civil War.

For a list of the contents of a particular box and/or to book one, please contact Clare.



"Fantastic for the children to touch the artefacts and find out about their history... lots of discussion that encouraged them to look closer at the objects and ask questions."
Primary teacher.



Museum visit

It is free to visit the museum and activity trails can be provided free-of-charge.

We have no permanent exhibitions so the exhibitions in our ten galleries (story stores) change every 3-12 months. If there is a topic you are studying then please ask Clare if there is an exhibition that will support it. For more information on how to book a visit please contact Clare.



Contact details

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