



WEST BERKSHIRE  
**MUSEUM**

Learning and  
Participation  
Service

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 purpose-built link building containing a reception, shop, café and toilet/baby changing facilities. The entire museum is fully accessible with a lift at each end.

The museum's Learning and Participation Service comprises of sessions, loan boxes, resource packs, museum visits and trails.



heritage  
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West Berkshire  
C O U N C I L



# Sessions

The West Berkshire Museum Learning and Participation Service offers a range of national curriculum-based cross-curricular sessions that can be delivered in **school or at the museum**.

A session costs £45 (for up to 35 children unless stated differently).

**\*Session involves object handling (real and/or replica objects).**

For more information and/or to make a booking, please see contact information overleaf.

## Where's my sheep?\*

**EYFS/KS1 50-75 minutes**



Through a story, hands-on gallery activities and a simple craft the children will learn about sheep and being a shepherd. **Museum only.**

"Thank you for a great morning – will recommend to colleagues as brilliant value for money."  
**KS1 teacher.**

## What's the connection?\*

**KS1/2 50-75 minutes**

By examining a set of objects from different time periods, the children work out the common theme (bed warmers), what the objects are made from and how they were used, with an activity to place them on a simple timeline.



"The children were all engaged and said how much they had enjoyed the session."  
**KS1 teacher**

## Roman Britain\*

**KS2 60-90 minutes**

By examining a range of artefacts to see what they tell us about life in Roman Britain, the children also consider 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.**

## Anglo Saxons\*

**KS2 75-90 minutes**

Exploring culture and everyday life through an object handling activity and gallery trail, this hands-on session includes dressing-up and the opportunity to experience up to two crafts: cord-making, writing a message in runes, making a saucer brooch, and decorating clay with replica stamps. **Museum only.**



"Our children loved their hands-on session. Well organized and informative"  
**Year 5/6 teacher.**

## Rocks\*

**KS2 60-75 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 Stone Age\*

**KS2 60-90 minutes**

By handling flint tools and looking at a mammoth's tooth the children find out about the Stone Age and the role archaeology has to play in telling us about the past.



"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 Cloth Hall

**KS1/2 50-75 minutes**



Looking at how and why the Cloth Hall was built, the children can make a simple model of the Cloth Hall and/or try a traditional building technique (wattle and daub), as well as explore the Cloth Hall through a trail.

"A super session!"  
**Year 3 teacher.**

## Victorian Toys\*

**KS1/2 60-75 minutes**

Through play the children compare the toys of the past with their modern equivalents, find out about Victorian children and make a simple toy.



"The children really enjoyed comparing old and new toys, and they clearly remembered the toys the following day."  
**Year 1 teacher.**

"Year 5 really enjoyed this visit and especially loved making their own Victorian toy!"  
**KS2 teacher.**

## Design a tour

**KS2/3 120 minutes**

Starting with a discussion on what makes a good museum tour, your class will explore the permanent exhibition to source the material for a tour that they will present to museum staff for certification. Maximum of 25. **Museum only.**



"The museum staff who ran the session were fantastic, and the children all wanted to come back and have another go."  
**Year 4 teacher.**



## Resource packs

We also have a small selection of resource packs. They are available to buy for a small charge of £15 per pack.

"Very detailed information and well-priced."  
**Year 3 teacher.**



"Interesting objects and comprehensive notes. A good starting point to use as clues for learning the topic, and nothing beats hands-on experience."  
**Primary teacher.**

## Loan boxes

We have a small selection of loan boxes containing replica and/or real objects. 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.



## Museum visit

It is free to visit the museum and activity trails can be provided. Most activity trails are available free-of-charge but there is a small charge for the 'Iggy' trail booklet.

The permanent exhibition, Lives and Landscapes, tells the story of West Berkshire; it is located in the four rooms on the ground floor of the Corn Stores. The six rooms upstairs in the Corn Stores have special exhibitions which change every 1-24 months, and in the Cloth Hall (upstairs) is the story of the two historic buildings that make up the museum. The Long Room (downstairs) is our learning and community space.

If there is a topic you are studying then please ask if there is an exhibition that will support it. If given enough notice, Clare is able to tailor-make trails to fit your topic; there is usually no charge for this service.



"Best trip we have ever been on."  
**KS2 boy.**



"We really appreciated the trail that was tailor-made to fit in with our topic of learning."  
**Year 1/2 teacher.**

"I have recommended the museum to my Headteacher – there are plenty of learning opportunities."  
**Year 1/2 teacher.**



## Contact details

For more information about anything mentioned in the brochure, please contact:

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