

# Explore Helmshore Mills: Information for teachers

## About this learning resource

This is a set of activity cards that aims to help your class explore Helmshore Mills from the outside. The activities support geography, history and literacy at Key Stage 2, but may be adapted for younger or older pupils.

There are six activity cards, each designed to be used in groups of around five pupils. The cards can be completed in any order. Each activity card in the set has a different focus:

Card title	Focus
<i>Where are we?</i>	Exploring the site to find water sources.
<i>What is this place made of?</i>	Investigating building materials and design.
<i>What is this place for?</i>	Discovering how the architecture helped the mills to run efficiently.
<i>How has this building changed?</i>	Using historic maps to detect changes to the mills and local area.
<i>What can buildings tell us?</i>	Examining how the design of the mill reflects on the mill owner.
<i>Who was here?</i>	Discussing how the mills may have shaped local people's lives and the local landscape over more than 100 years.

## What to bring with you

- The activity cards, printed double sided – at least 1 set for the class (1 set of cards per group is best).
- Pencils or pens – at least 1 per child
- Exercise books/sketchbooks/3 sheets of plain paper + clipboard – 1 per child
- Camera(s) if possible
- Lots of adult helpers!

## How to use the activity cards

- The activities are designed to be self-led and can be done without any facilitation by Helmshore staff. It is possible to complete all of the activities even when the museum is closed.

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- Teachers may wish to use all of the cards, or select a few. You are welcome to adapt activities to suit your class.
- We suggest that, after a safety briefing, the class is broken into six groups. Each group is given a set of cards, each set starting with a different card. Groups are allocated an amount of time to spend on each activity card, after which they should move on to the next activity card. The class should regroup at a time and location decided by the teacher, to share their discoveries.
- Ideally, each group should have an adult helper who will supervise the group and read out the instructions on the cards. If the lead teacher feels their pupils can behave safely and responsibly, groups without an adult leader could use the activity cards independently. However, pupils must be supervised by an adult when working on the *Where Are We?* activity card, as they will be looking at water sources.

## Safety

The class teacher is responsible for pupils' behaviour and safety at all times, and should conduct a risk assessment before bringing the class to visit. Please note:

- The activities take place outdoors. Pupils should have appropriate footwear.
- Be aware of the car park and access road, and ensure pupils are properly supervised.
- Groups should stay together.
- Pupils must be mindful of other groups and members of the public.

## Helmshore Mills contact details

Holcombe road  
Helmshore  
Lancashire  
BB4 4NP  
01706 226459

<http://www.visitlancashire.com/things-to-do/helmshore-mills-textile-museum-p7153>

## Explore other sites

There are more historic buildings in Pennine Lancashire to explore using activity cards like these. For more information about these wonderful places, visit:

<http://www.wonderful-things.org.uk>