

Explore the Whitaker: Information for teachers

About this learning resource

This is a set of activity cards that aims to help your class explore the Whitaker. The activities support history, art and design, geography and science 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>	Using current and historic maps to understand that the Whitaker was a mill owner's house, with view of the mill.
<i>What is this place made of?</i>	Discovering fossils on display and in stone used as building material.
<i>What is this place for?</i>	Using a historic map to understand that Whitaker Park was created to improve living conditions for 19 th century workers.
<i>How has this building changed?</i>	Comparing rooms to understand the building's transformation from a home in the 19 th century to a museum today.
<i>What can buildings tell us?</i>	Understanding that the Whitaker now records and preserves local history.
<i>Who was here?</i>	Comparing the grand architecture of the Whitaker to 19 th century mill workers' homes.

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!

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How to use the activity cards

- The activities are designed to be self-led and can be done without any facilitation by the museum's staff. If you need help, do ask a member of staff who will assist as much as they can.
- Teachers may wish 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. However, if teachers feel their pupils can behave safely and responsibly, groups without an adult leader could use some of the activity cards independently.

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:

- Some activities take place outdoors. Pupils must be supervised by an adult during these activities. Pupils should have appropriate footwear.
- Some activities are indoors. Pupils must walk, not run, and take care not to bump into furniture.
- Groups should stay together.
- Pupils must be mindful of other groups and members of the public.

The Whitaker contact details

Whitaker Park
Haslingden Road
Rossendale
Lancashire
BB4 6RE
Telephone: 01706 260785
<http://www.thewhitaker.org>

Explore other sites

There are more historic buildings in Pennine Lancashire to explore using activity cards like these. For more information, visit: <http://www.wonderful-things.org.uk>