

Beaming with Health:

How Abbey Pumping Station Changed Leicester

Abbey Pumping Station

Key Stage 2 curriculum links: History, Science, Language and Literacy

Cross curricular links: PSHE

1. Session Description

Pupils discover the gruesome side of Victorian Leicester when open sewers flowed down overcrowded streets and over two-thirds of children didn't survive to the age of ten. Examine why the Abbey Pumping Station was built and how it changed the lives of Leicester's 8217 Victorian residents.

- Learn about living conditions in Victorian Leicester and what people's lives were like with no electricity or running water, little sanitation, and basic food.
- Hear about infant mortality rates in the city and contagious diseases in Victorian times.
- Discover why the Abbey Pumping Station was built and how the magnificent beam engines work.

2. Session Length:

75 minutes

3. Session Structure and Breakdown of Timings

Time	Activity	Length of activity
0-2 mins	Welcome and orientation	2 minutes
2 -20 mins	Introduction and look at sanitation artefacts	22 minutes
5 mins	Kill off the kids!	27 minutes
3 mins	Divide the group into two	30 minutes
	Group 1:	
15 mins	Look at the Beam Engine House with the session leader – How it works and the Victorian grandeur	45minutes
5 mins	Swap with Group 2	50 minutes
	Group 2:	
15 mins	Look at the sanitisation displays in the gallery – teacher led	65 minutes
10 mins	Reconvene and plenary	10 minutes
		75 minutes

Note: timings are flexible in response to pupil participation

4. Learning Outcomes

- To find out about the past by exploring and accessing the unique resources offered by the Abbey Pumping Station.
- Find out how in one way the local area has changed and the causes and effects of these changes.
- Be healthy – understanding the beginnings of health and well-being as a society and as an individual.
- Infer information from primary artifacts and pictures.
- Identify familiar objects and recognise what is unfamiliar.
- Identify features of Victorian buildings.
- Field work skills, particularly suited to schools located in an area with a range of buildings dating from the Victorian period.

5. Curriculum Links

Key Stage 2

History

- A local history study
- Significant historical events, people and places in their own locality
- A significant turning point in British history

Science

- Recognise that some mechanisms, including levers, pulleys, and gears, allow a smaller force to have a greater effect

Language and Literacy

- Use discussion to learn
- Listen and respond appropriately to adults and their peers
- Ask relevant questions to extend understanding and knowledge

9. Staffing requirements

Museum facilitator led plus at least 3 accompanying adults from the school.

10. Room requirements

Learning Room and the Galleries at Abbey Pumping Station.

11. Pre-visit and Post-visit activities

Cross curricular links:

- **History:** Interpret the past from resources
- **Language and literacy:** write clearly, accurately, and coherently; handwriting; writing narratives; be competent in speaking and listening, make formal presentations
- **Art:** use drawing, painting, and sculpture to develop and share ideas and imagination; develop techniques; use a range of materials creatively to design and make products

Pre-visit activities

- 1). Discuss reasons which contributed to insanitary living conditions in Victorian times.
- 2). Debate the benefits of the Industrial Revolution against the negative impact of the Industrialisation.

Post visit activities

- 1). Write about your experience of visiting the Beam Engine House at Abbey Pumping Station. Describe the machinery and the atmosphere.
- 2). Download the Abbey Pumping Station Activity Cards from our website for various discussion prompts:
[Resources and Activity Sheets – Leicester Museums](#)
- 3). Research other important inventions of the Industrial Revolution.
- 4). Create a painting, drawing or collage of the patterns and shapes seen within the machinery in the Beam Engine House at Abbey Pumping Station.



Leicester
City Council