

Time detectives: A teacher-led session

Notes to teachers

These are literacy activities based on a teacher-led study of the Toll House. This is a small house, so ideally the class would work on this in two groups during their time at the Museum. The children could be further divided into two sub-groups, with one looking at the house and the other the garden, before swapping.

This activity is adaptable for use throughout KS2. Although it does not connect to current KS2 history topics, it can be used as a standalone unit for literacy purposes. If you have a 'Turnpike Road' or Toll House near the school, that would give the work added context and could form part of a local history unit.

Teacher led session

Children work on the question sheet, finding clues in the Toll House and garden to help them work out who lived there.

It would be helpful for the teacher to have read about the house before the visit. There is information on the website and in the Museum magazine, which is also available online. Children can talk to any stewards to help, but must record the ***evidence*** they used to come to their answers.

They could come to the house 'cold', or you could introduce them to the toll board first and discuss what this means.

The house is furnished as it would have been in 1815.

The toll keeper's role was to keep the gate shut, opening in to allow access on payment of the requisite amount. Pedestrians were free, as was the mail coach, which blew a trumpet on approach so that the gate stood open for it to pass.

You may find it useful to take photographs of some of the 'evidence' that the children produce.