

SHELTER BUILDING & SURVIVAL TECHNIQUES

Faced with hazel poles, rope and canvas, groups of children are challenged to construct a shelter of their own design, using their thinking and building skills. First they learn to tie some useful simple knots to secure their shelter and then they get to work. Once complete, they need to test their finished structure – is it water proof? Is it windproof? Will it keep them warm and safe? Is it sustainable? Now they have a shelter they need to consider what else they will need to survive. The children examine an 'Arborloo' (tree toilet), a simple, low cost way of generating organic fertiliser and improving health and hygiene in developing countries. They work out the cost effectiveness, accessibility and environmental impact of the simple technology used. We recommend a minimum ratio of 1 adult to 6 children for this activity.

KS2 Design and technology: Developing, planning and communicating ideas; Evaluating processes and products
KS2 Mathematics: Understanding patterns and properties of shape
KS2 Science: Materials and their properties
KS2 Citizenship: Developing confidence and responsibility and making the most of their abilities; Developing good relationships and respecting differences between people

If you would like to see the short film of the building of the Arborloo by children from Wellington Primary School in October 2011, please use the following link <http://www.concern-universal.org/home> 'How to build a tree toilet'
'They definitely developed some teambuilding/cooperation skills'



KS2



FANTASTIC FOOD CHAINS

The wonderful combination of woodland and farmland at Acton Scott allows children to build food chains and webs that ultimately link us all together. They will start with an active game explaining the conditions needed for seed germination and some of the seed-eaters that may prevent this. A scavenger hunt in the woodland enables the children to look at the parts of plants and think about which parts are eaten by animals. Children then produce a wheel of woodland food chains, all of which are reliant on green plants and the sun. This session culminates in the children creating a human model of the living tree.

KS2 Science: Scientific enquiry; Life processes and living things

KS2

We are now an official CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY LEARNING DESTINATION



ACTON SCOTT
Historic Working Farm

HIGHLY COMMENDED in the 'Classic Award' at the 'Museums & Heritage Awards for Excellence 2011'

Schools Programme 2012



STORY TOURS AND ACTIVITIES EARLY YEARS & KS1

EYFS Knowledge & Understanding of the World - An opportunity to encounter creatures in a real-life situation, undertake practical experiments and work with natural materials.

THREE LITTLE PIGS

The children listen to the story of the Three Little Pigs before setting off on an adventure to find the real pigs on the farm. They look for homes made of straw, wood and bricks and decide which animal lives where. And then they are challenged to construct a home so strong that a wolf cannot blow it down. They can only use the materials the pigs had – straw, sticks and bricks. Were the pigs right? Which material is the strongest? How will they test it?

KS1 Science: Life processes and living things, Materials and their properties
KS1 Design and technology: Developing, planning and communicating ideas; Evaluating processes and products
'The children loved seeing how the farm worked'

OLD MACDONALD HAD A FARM

Children sing the song before setting out on a sensory tour of the farm. They smell the sweet hay, hear the cockerel crow, feel the warmth of the horse's breath and enjoy a host of other sensory experiences. As they meet the animals, they discover how important the senses are to everyone. Along the way they create a journey stick to help them recall their sensory tour on their return to school. And their final activity is to make a big scarecrow of Old Macdonald himself using recycled materials.

KS1 Science: Life processes and living things, Materials and their properties
KS1 Design and technology: Developing, planning and communicating ideas; Evaluating processes and products
'Wonderful experience. Links to all six areas of development'

WINNIE-THE-POOH AND SOME VERY IMPORTANT BEES NEW!

Listening to the wonderful classic tale of Winnie-the-Pooh and the bees will put the children in the mood for our buzzing bee experience. They join in with actions and sounds and catch the imaginary bees for Pooh in a skep. Then it's off to learn about real honey bees at Acton Scott whilst watching them in a special observation hive. And finally, time to get busy working together in small groups to design and construct a cosy hotel for wild bees and locate it around the farm. A taste of Acton Scott honey and a smell of real beeswax will complete the activity.

KS1 Science: Life processes and living things, Materials and their properties
KS1 Design and technology: Developing, planning and communicating ideas; Evaluating processes and products

THE NATURAL WORLD



A SENSE OF ADVENTURE

KS1

Using their senses and imagination, children experience life in the wild in Acton Scott's woodland. They learn about camouflage, predators and prey as they hunt for woolly worms, and try worm-charming, just like a thrush. They feel their way along a blindfold trail, imagining life as a mole underground and then, with their sight restored, they hunt for minibeasts in the leaf litter. Every sense (except taste!) is put to the test in this wildlife quest, as the children look, listen, feel and smell for clues about the life hiding in the trees.

KS1 Science: Scientific enquiry; Life processes and living things

KS1 Geography: Knowledge and understanding of places
'What a wonderful experience!'

THE SECRET LIFE OF PLANTS & TREES

KS1

Through activity and song, children find out about the different parts of plants and how they provide homes and food for wildlife. They meet the stately oak trees and the rare black poplar to appreciate their age and scale, as well as the wealth of habitats they offer to creatures both large and small. Down in the woodland, practical activities, such as bark rubbing and colour palettes, draw the children closer to the trees and plants to value their beauty and variety. Finally, the children take part in a scavenger hunt to show how sharp their eyes are and demonstrate how much they have learned.

KS1 Science: Scientific enquiry; Life processes and living things
KS1 Geography: Knowledge and understanding of places

THE GREAT HABITAT HUNT

KS2

This is a great opportunity to compare and contrast a range of habitats found at Acton Scott. Following the hedgerow corridors, whilst looking for animals hidden within, the children walk to the woodland where the tree canopy, leaf litter and dead wood are studied. Minibeast hunts in these habitats allows them to consider how the animals found are best suited to where they live. This lively session culminates in groups of children taking on the role and appearance of particular animals and finding and describing their perfect home.

KS2 Science: Scientific enquiry; Life processes and living things
'They were enthusiastic throughout the whole session. This will provide a great stimulus'



Primary Education Activities

- All sessions last 1 hour 30 minutes. 10.30 – 12.00 or 12.30 – 2.00
- All sessions cost £55. This is in addition to the group admission costs.
- Group admission costs: children £3.25 One adult per 6 paying children will be admitted free of charge and all other accompanying adults will be charged at child rate.
- Pre-school, playgroups & nursery visits. Children FREE. Accompanying adults £6.00
- We have a maximum number of 30 children for each Early Years & KS1 session and 35 children for each KS2 session.
- Acton Scott offers a free preliminary visit for teachers plus a further free ticket for a friend.
- All groups must be booked well in advance. Late bookings may mean that we can't offer you the session of your choice.

Booking Information

- Acton Scott Historic Working Farm is open daily Tues 3 April – Sunday 4 Nov 2012, 10.00am – 4.30pm. Closed Mondays. All details correct at time of going to press. We reserve the right to change details without notice. For further information and to book a visit please phone: 01694 781307 e-mail: acton.scott.museum@shropshire.gov.uk

Children with Special Educational Needs

All our sessions can be adapted to meet the needs of students with special educational needs or we can develop a session especially for your group. Please ask for further details.

Lunchtime

We have an undercover area near the entrance to the site where you can eat your lunch away from the animals.

Health & Safety

We can send you electronic copies of our risk assessments on request.

A ratio of one adult to six children is recommended for KS1 pupils. Minimum requirement is one adult to ten children for KS2 pupils.

Acton Scott is an outdoor site. Please ensure that every child wears suitable clothing.

Acton Scott Historic Working Farm

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Telephone: 01694 781307
e-mail:
acton.scott.museum@shropshire.gov.uk
www.actonscottmuseum.com**

Spring & Summer Term Only

BAA BAA BLACK SHEEP

The children will love singing the nursery rhyme 'Baa Baa Black Sheep' before making their way to the farmyard to find the sheep and lambs. They find out how we care for our friendly Shropshire sheep and, if they are hungry, they will bottle feed the lambs. They look closely at a fleece and have a go at carding some wool and twisting it into yarn before finding out what happens next. Then it's time to start searching for those 'three bags full' to return them to their rightful owners, the master, the dame and that little boy who lived down the lane.

KS1 Science: Life processes and living things, Materials and their properties

LIVING HISTORY

MRS LATHER'S LAUNDRY

The children dress up in replica Victorian costume before visiting the cottage to look for differences between homes in the past and homes today. They discover that water for cooking and washing was heated by wood and they set off to collect sticks for the laundry copper. Then they must fetch the water, grate the soap, pound the clothes in the dolly tub, turn the mangle, hang up the washing, fold the clothes and do a spot of ironing. After all that hard work, there is time for a short rest while listening to the story of Mrs Lather's Laundry before making their way to the cottage garden to play with replica Victorian toys and take part in traditional playground games.

KS1 History: Knowledge and understanding of events, people and changes in the past; Historical enquiry

'They loved the opportunity to do something that is physically and visually different'

'Thank you for teching me about the oldun days...I ternd lots and lots' Bronwen



EVACUEE AT ACTON SCOTT

The billeting officer, Mrs Mainwaring, will meet your group to prepare the children for their stay in wartime Acton Scott. Together they will check identity cards and unpack an evacuee's suitcase full of authentic material. They practise their gas mask and air raid drills while learning songs to keep their spirits up. As their contribution to the war effort, the children will Dig for Victory in the garden or undertake a seasonal farm task. They then find a quiet place to reflect on their experiences whilst writing their first letter home.

KS2 History: Knowledge and understanding of events, people and changes in the past; Historical enquiry

KS2 English: Drama activities – working in role

It helps if the children arrive in WWII period costume for this session but please remember that, dependent on the weather, they will need waterproof coats and shoes.

'Rather than just hearing or reading about being evacuated, to actually experience it was fantastic'

THE VICTORIAN COUNTRY CHILD

Children take on the identity of one of the Victorian children who attended Acton Scott School in 1881. They discover what life was like for Victorian children living on a small South Shropshire estate through access to the 1881 census, school log books and original photographs. As the Acton Scott children of 1881, they undertake seasonal farm work such as stone picking before experiencing the demands of rag rugging, a typical cottage pastime. They also find out what these children did in their spare time, looking at the games they devised using the natural materials they found around them.

KS2 History: Knowledge and understanding of events, people and changes in the past; Historical enquiry

KS2 English: Drama activities – working in role

It helps if the children arrive in period costume for this session but please remember that, dependent on the weather, they will need waterproof coats and shoes.

'Actually doing some of the jobs children would have done was invaluable'

A FARM THROUGH TIME

This is the story of a farming community through the ages; from an Iron Age farmstead to a prosperous Victorian estate with a large country house and fine buildings. Children will find out how the landscape has changed over time. They map out an Iron Age round house, using themselves as human posts and then undertake some typical activities of the period, grinding corn on a quern stone and spinning wool on a drop spindle. They look for evidence of Roman occupation and sort Roman finds into materials and use. They discover how the land was cultivated in the medieval period by playing the part of ploughman and oxen, using a specially designed plough. The session ends in the bustle of the Victorian farmyard, an ideal opportunity to make comparisons between the lives of the Victorian farmer and his family and those from previous eras.

KS2 History: Chronological understanding; Knowledge and understanding of events, people and changes in the past; historical enquiry

KS2 Science: Materials and their properties

'Children engaged totally and full of questions afterwards'

FARM BOY

Step into the story of 'Farm Boy' by Michael Morpurgo.

'Set on a farm at the beginning of the 20th century, this book is both an evocative and nostalgic read. It is a story of the relationship between a grandfather and grandson and the very special secret they share involving a local farmer, a field, horses and a newfangled Fordson tractor' Children will gain a deeper understanding of this moving story through first-hand experience. As they meet the farm's shire horses, Joe, Charlie & Tory, they develop a sense of their scale and temperament, whilst finding out what is involved in their care. They take on the role of the horses and try ploughing and turning the gin in order to appreciate fully the strength and discipline that is required of these magnificent animals and the skills of the people who work with them.

Through a practical harnessing activity, they learn how the harness fits together to transfer a horse's amazing strength to the plough. Finally, they inspect Acton Scott's very first tractor, a 1947 Fordson Major, and reflect on what advantages and disadvantages it brought.

To make the most of this session, children should have read 'Farm Boy' by Michael Morpurgo before their visit. Resources to support work before and after the visit will be sent on booking.

KS2 History: Knowledge and understanding of events, people and changes in the past

KS2 English: Drama activities – working in role

KS2 Science: Physical processes – Forces



KS2

NEW!

LIFE SCIENCE

LAY A LITTLE EGG FOR ME

After a quick 'chicken hunt' to locate all the hens on the farm, the children find out why we keep chickens and how the farmer keeps them healthy. The hens need feeding so it's time to find the corn and grind it in the kibbler before collecting the new-laid eggs from the henhouse. They visit the incubation store to see if any of the eggs have recently hatched and handle some soft fluffy chicks under supervision. Their final activity is to decide which materials are needed to make a warm nest for a hen and her chicks while remembering the needs of a chicken and watching out for the fox.

KS1 Science: Life processes and living things; Materials and their properties

KS1 Citizenship: Preparing to play an active role as citizens; Developing a healthy, safer lifestyle

KS1 Design and technology: Developing, planning and communicating ideas;

Evaluating processes and products



I WANT TO BE A FARMER!

With the average age of a farmer now nearly 60, we are looking for some new recruits!

Through close contact with the animals, multisensory activities, and the opportunity to ask as many questions as they want, the children will discover what a farmer does all day and how the animals are cared for. They learn about animals' needs and how to behave around them, as well as lots of farm specific vocabulary. They look for similarities and differences between a Victorian farm and a modern farm and create a model tractor time line to help develop a sense of chronology.

KS1 Science: Life processes and living things; Materials and their properties

KS1 History: Chronological understanding

KS1 Citizenship: Developing a healthy, safer lifestyle; Developing good

relationships and respecting differences between people

'All very excited and discussing what they saw'

KS1

ANIMALS & TEETH

Children will study the skulls of different animals, looking at their teeth and finding out how they use those teeth to eat different food stuffs. They decide if the skull is of a carnivore, herbivore or omnivore. They then tour the farm to find the animals and discover what they eat. They observe how the animals take in their food and how their bodies have adapted to cope with different types of food. Their final challenge is a sorting activity. Working in small groups, they match a selection of food samples to the right animal, referring back to the skulls to determine how and what they eat.

KS2 Science: Scientific enquiry; Life processes and living things

'Pupils very focused throughout and excellent to go out and actually see animals feeding'



KS2

September & October only

HARVEST HOME

Children dress in replica Victorian costume and, through activity and song, learn what happened at harvest time in the past. Reaping the wheat, binding the sheaves, building the stooks and gleaning in the fields are followed by threshing and winnowing the wheat in the barn. They mill grain into flour and hear the story of the harvest loaf before gathering fuel for the bread oven. As they trace the wheat from field to plate, they learn how and why harvest was celebrated, and how everyone had their part to play.

KS1 History: Knowledge and understanding of events, people and changes in the past

KS1 Science: Life processes and living things

'Many parts consolidated learning which was great for the children.'

'They did feel as if they were really taking part'

KS1

September & October only

HARVEST CELEBRATION

Children learn what happened at harvest time in the past and understand how working together at this vital time gave a sense of community to both young and old. They undertake harvest work in the fields; reaping, binding sheaves, building stooks and gleaning, before threshing, winnowing and milling in the barn. Typical songs and games of the season encourage the children to keep working. Each child will make a corn dolly sweetheart favour, as a memento of their harvest celebration. This is a plait of three straws tied into a loose knot to represent a heart shape. It was traditionally made by a young man with straws picked up after the harvest and given to his loved one.

KS2 History: Knowledge and understanding of events, people and changes in the past

KS2 English: Drama activities – working in role

KS2 Science: Life processes and living things

KS2

SUSTAINABLE CHALLENGES

FOOD & FARMING – THE SUSTAINABLE WAY KS2

During the visit, children are set a series of challenges that help them look for evidence of sustainable farming and food production on the historic working farm. They discover how the farmer worked with the land and the animals and the impact of farming on the environment. They gain an understanding of the economics of farming and through a series of practical activities learn how the farm relied on both horse and human energy to survive. They create a mind map of the systems used on the farm and begin to debate the question 'Was Acton Scott a sustainable farm?'

On booking, schools will be sent a PDF of downloadable resources for use in the classroom. The pre-visit material prepares the children for their visit to Acton Scott. The post-visit material contains a series of activities to consolidate and make explicit what has been learned about sustainable farming during the visit.



KS2 Citizenship: Preparing to play an active role as citizens; Developing a healthy, safer lifestyle

KS2 Geography: Knowledge and understanding of places; Knowledge and understanding of patterns and processes; Knowledge and understanding of environmental change and sustainable development

KS2 History: Knowledge and understanding of events, people and changes in the past

KS2 Science: Scientific enquiry; Life processes and living things

BEES, BIRDS AND SCARECROWS KS2

Children discover that an understanding of the natural world can be indispensable to a sustainable garden. They study bees at work in Acton Scott's observation hive, learning how the different tasks are shared and what bees need. They hunt for minibeasts in the garden, deciding through close observation whether they are garden friends or foes, and devise ways to attract or repel them as appropriate. Then they meet the scarecrow challenge! A perfectly sustainable solution to unwanted pests such as seed-eating birds. The children are split into teams to design and make their scarecrows using recycled materials.

KS2 Science: Life processes, Living things in their environment

KS2 Design and Technology: knowledge, skills and understanding

'Very impressive. Your super organization helped us all have a wonderful time'