**Historic Park or Garden Diary Writing Activity**

**Activity Outline:**

This activity is designed for a classroom activity for school children (aged c10-11 years, Key Stage 2). It is intended to be run as a bigger workshop after a timeline activity.

It helps to illustrate how historic photos, maps and other archive materials are our window into the past; helping them understand chronology and how people interact with a changing historic landscape.

**Materials:**

* If available, a representative of local archive!
* Resource pack for small group or individual work. For example, if there are 6 tables of children, you will need 6 packs. To include:

1. A scenario about a real-life historical event printed onto A4 paper, for example:

* The day that the landscape designer visited the Estate for the first time. A day in July 1794
* The day the client received his proposed garden designs. A day in March 1795
* The day that the children played in the pond. Picture dated from Edwardian times
* The day that the children met at the Doric Temple. Picture dated from Edwardian times
* The day that the owner moved into his new house and gardens in 1819

1. A selection of photos of archived material (images, maps) relevant to each scenario, including some from the previous timeline activity.
2. Pens and paper (school may be able to provide)

**Method:**

This is teacher-led, but with project volunteers on hand to help.

*10 minutes to explain the activity:*

Explain you would like the children to work in pairs or as individuals to create a fictional diary entry based on a scenario that would probably have happened in the past at [INSERT SITE].

Recap the site’s history and what it has in it. Length of the recap will vary depending on whether there have been previous sessions and how recently. (Ideally this activity is run immediately after the Timeline activity, in the same day.)

*10 minutes to set up:*

Provide for each table an archive resource pack (including some of the same items as the timeline in previous activity) to inspire their writing.

Give each table group a different scenario, for example:

* The day that the landscape designer visited the Estate for the first time. A day in July 1794
* The day the client received his proposed garden designs. A day in March 1795
* The day that the children played in the pond. Picture dated from Edwardian times
* The day that the children met at the Doric Temple. Picture dated from Edwardian times
* The day that the owner moved into his new house and gardens in 1819

Write on the board brief instructions on ‘How to write a diary entry’:

* What is the date of your diary entry?
* The events you are going to talk about happened on [insert day in history]
* Start – “Dear Diary”
* Who are the characters of your story?
* What happened?
* Who was involved?
* How does this make you feel?

*25 minutes for the activity:*

The children write their diary entries. They might need some support to help them understand an historical event or some more detail about a different scenario (based on your prior knowledge of the landscape and designer).

Move around the room to encourage and support the children.

Teachers will support the children on their use of words, description, grammar.

*5 minutes for wrap-up:*

Teacher will lead. The diary entries can be written up and presented for display for Workshop 4.

The Historic Landscape Project, 2020

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