



Gloucestershire Archives

What's Beneath Your Feet?

Activity Template

Activity Name: Chain Surveying

Subject: History - Local study

Key Stage: 2

National Curriculum programme of study: Historical enquiry, historical interpretation, knowledge and understanding of events, people and changes in the past

Activity Description: This is a practical activity offering pupils the opportunity to use surveying chains used to create inclosure maps. The pupils will learn how to use a surveyor's chain and other relevant equipment. The method used is that of offset surveying, although other techniques (such as transliteration) could be used. This activity demonstrates how complex and skilled a surveyor and his team had to be to create the maps. More detailed instructions of how to facilitate a demonstration are attached.

Resources: 2 surveyor's chains, Surveyor's hat, 10 reproduction surveyor's pegs, surveyor's cross, surveyor's 'Field Book' (one A4 sheet, one per child). Ideally the activity requires access to a playing field or playground (a chain is 30m long and the chaining pegs need to be pushed into the ground).

Background information: What is Inclosure? Inclosure in Gloucestershire Surveying Inclosure Maps

Learning Objectives: To understand how Inclosure maps were made. To understand the work of 18th and 19th century surveyors. To learn about 18th and 19th century surveying techniques. To analyse and record simple measurements using an original surveyor's chain. To learn about different methods of measuring.

Learning Styles: Visual and spatial, kinaesthetic, interpersonal, naturalist.

Cross-curricular links: Numeracy, Geography

Class organisation: The class will begin the activity together with an introductory whiteboard discussion about the role of the surveyor and what a surveyor's chain is. They will then split into two groups for the surveying activities outside the classroom.

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes

Extension activity: The pupils could measure the same distances using different measuring equipment, such as a builder's tape measure, a sonic measure or laser equipment. The pupils could also survey and produce a map of their playing field/playground or classroom, etc.