



What's Beneath Your Feet?

Activity Template

Activity Name: Inclosure Role-Play

Subject: History – Local Study

Key Stage: 2

National Curriculum programme of study: Knowledge and understanding of events, people and changes in the past, historical interpretation, organisation and interpretation

Activity Description: This activity was inspired by documents in Gloucestershire Archives. The documents describe a court case at the Gloucester Assizes in 1819. The activity should begin with a short discussion about general law and order and crime and punishment in the Georgian times. There are useful images on the CD to aid discussion. The discussion could include a comparison between Georgian and modern courts. The discussion should then lead onto the Gloucester Assizes case. The class should be divided into two groups. Each child should be given a copy of the script. Roles should then be assigned to the pupils. There are enough parts if the class is divided in two, with both speaking and non-speaking roles. The two groups should then practice the play separately. This should include deciding the verdict of the case and any punishment (if any). The two cottagers can be in costume. It is likely that the two groups will come up with different verdicts, which will add to the final discussion.

Resources: Script: 'The Trial of William and Betty Davis', large thick book (Bible if possible), Georgian costumes

Background information: Inclosure in Gloucestershire, Images Folder on CD

Learning Objectives: To learn that inclosure affected communities in different ways, according to their social status; to learn about how early 19th century courts worked; to compare Georgian and modern courts; to find out about law and order and crime and punishment in Georgian times.

Learning Styles: Musical, interpersonal, linguistic

Cross-curricular links: Literacy, Drama, Citizenship

Class organisation: The class should be together for the discussion and then divided into two groups to practice the play. They should then come back together for their performances.

Duration: 2 hours (the play is approximately 20 minutes long)

Extension activity: The pupils could produce a scrapbook of images and text about crime and punishment in Georgian times. They could use the Internet for research. Pupils could also divide into smaller groups and devise their own short improvisations about inclosure, for example cottagers being ordered from their homes.

Gloucestershire Archives

