



Session summary:

In this session the children will explore why we wear hats, thinking about the messages hats can send and why some jobs have special hats. They will learn about the manufacture of straw plait for the hat making industry. They will consider how the whole family was involved in the process and understand what was expected of the children and the conditions they worked in.

The final part of the session gives them opportunity to try their hand at making their own giant plait using rope.

Learning objectives:

- Know the hat industry was important to Luton.
- Have an understanding of children's' roles in the local hat making industry.
- Be able to identify different hats with different jobs and fashions.
- Have a basic understanding of straw plaiting.

Curriculum links-

History-

- Changes in living memory
- Events of local importance

SMCS-

- Understanding & appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage.

Additional information: It is useful to know if any members of your class have learning, physical or sensory difficulties or illnesses that may affect their enjoyment of the session.



Learning outcomes:

At the end of this session children will be know that Luton was famous for making hats. Some will know that the hat Luton was most famous for was the Straw Boater. Their knowledge that some hats relate to specific professions will have been reinforced. They will be aware that children worked in some parts of the hat industry.

English - Speaking & Listening-

- Listen & respond appropriately
- Ask relevant questions
- Maintain attention & participate

Skills-

- Hand - eye co-ordination: plaiting





THE
CULTURE
TRUST

Where Did You Get That Hat?

KS1

Venue: Wardown House Museum & Gallery

(60 minutes)

Suggested activities:

Before the visit

- Discuss with the class what Luton is famous for; there will be lots of different suggestions. They may think of hats by themselves or they may need some assistance - 'why is Luton Football club called the Hatters?'
- Think about all the things in the town that have any connection with the hat industry: road names, buildings, shops, factories.

During the visit

- Take a look at the hat collection in the upstairs gallery and the different styles of straw plait.

After the visit

- The children could practice their plaiting skills.
- The children could make or decorate their own hats.

Useful resources

- Information booklet: Luton Straw Hat Boom Town 1850-1910 and Luton Hat Industry 1750-2000. Useful for teachers and includes some resources that could be used with the whole class
- Hat Trail self-guides notes and risk assessment guidance
- Images of Ladies and Gents hats.

All of these resources can be sent upon request.

To plan a visit, book a session, or for more information please get in touch:

Email: culture4schools@culturetrust.com
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