History and the National Curriculum

The English Heritage Education Service welcomes many of the statements and recommendations of the National Curriculum History Working Group's Interim Report which was published this summer. It shows a strong commitment to the study of the physical evidence for the past.

Before the Interim Report from the History Working Group finally arrived, education staff at English Heritage were apprehensive about what would be included in, or omitted from, the report. Like many other organisations and individuals, we made a submission to the Working Group.

In general terms we are pleased with the Interim Report. We feel that it has struck a fair balance and clearly taken on board many of the suggestions which professional organisations such as English Heritage have made. There are clear statements about the need to make field visits, handle objects, to use empathy and role-play in teaching and to adopt cross-curricular approaches. We are pleased that the English Heritage Education Service has for years been in line with National Curriculum thinking! Our free publications for teachers, Information for Teachers and Remnants are witness to that.

The role of English Heritage

In a recent article in History Today (Vol. 39 June 1989), Lord Montagu, the Chairman of English Heritage, wrote, "English Heritage was set up in 1984 by Government under the National Heritage act. We have responsibility for safeguarding, conserving and presenting much of our..."

Resources update

'Learning from the Past’ course details
Empathy and role play in the teaching of history.

This two-day INSET course will be held at the Institute of Education, University of London on Wednesday and Thursday 7 December 1989, jointly organised by the ILEA Theatre in Museums Education team and the institute. The course is partly sponsored by British Petroleum.

Course fee £50.

For further details contact: Hilary Williams, INSET Co-ordinator, Institute of Education, University of London, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1R 0AL; tel: 01 636 1300.

Welcome...

to our new Regional Education Officer, Ross Jellicoe. Ross will be the officer for our Northern Region and will be based in Newcastle. You can contact him on 091 261 1385.

Ross was educated on Merseyside. He has had a varied career - first as a librarian, then, after completing degree and teaching courses at Lancaster University, as a college tutor librarian in the Isle of Man. He finished writing a Ph.D. while teaching at university and then taught in secondary schools.

London Historic Houses: New booking arrangements

English Heritage has four major historic houses in the Greater London area which can be visited free of charge by educational groups.

Chiswick House, London W4, and Marble Hill House, Twickenham (see below) are classical Palladian villas of the early 18th century with landscaped gardens and important art collections.

Kenwood, Hampstead, NW3 has important interiors remodelled by Robert Adam, including the classic library, and the Iveagh Bequest art collection.

Rangers House, Blackheath, SE10, on the edge of Greenwich Park, houses the Suffolk collection of paintings and the Domletts collection of early musical instruments.

We have a free information leaflet; giving fuller details on each, available on request.

If you wish to visit any of the Houses, please book two weeks in advance via: George Williamson

Head Custodian
Rangers House
Chesterfield Walk
Blackheath
London SE10 8QY
Tel: 01 853 0035

... Don't take our word for it - this is what a satisfied customer has to say!

Dear Mr Corbishley

For several years I have had the opportunity of using Marble Hill House, Twickenham, as part of the History Around Us component in the Schools History Project. This year, as always, the pupils benefitted from an exciting building and the enthusiasm and expertise of the staff, in particular Derek Ratchoff, the Head Custodian.

Moreover, there was also the additional benefit of another area now open, and with it the displays of china and paintings on glass, the chinoiserie. The technique gave me an idea which I thought you might like to hear. The class were given sheets of acetate (normally used for an overhead projector) on which they painted pictures to show the architectural style of Marble Hill House. This was done in reverse - final details put on first on the back, with the whole image being built up. We then lined the acetate with silver foil to give the mirror effect. As you can see from the enclosed photograph of just one example, the results were very exciting and we had our own lively display at school.

It makes the task of teaching so much more enjoyable when organisations like English Heritage provide stimulating material, and I hope that this letter and its contents goes some way towards showing you how the pupils and I gain inspiration from your efforts.

With many thanks,

Hilary Morris (Mrs)

Head of Department,
Orleans Park School

Did you know... there are over 80 castles and 350 sites in all which you can visit free of charge as a group provided that you prebook? Our free booklet Information for Teachers, contains a list of all our sites together with many practical ideas for getting the most out of school visits and our new booking form. Our catalogue Resources is also still available on request. For copies of the above, further details of our teachers courses and any other information about our Education Service please contact:

English Heritage

Education Service
Keysign House
429 Oxford Street
London W1R 2HD
01 973 3442/3

Please send any order for our publications or videos to:

English Heritage
PO Box 43, Ruislip,
Middlesex HA4 0XW

REMANTS, the Journal of the English Heritage Education Service, is edited by Mike Corbishley (Head of Education) and Ken Glen (Education Administrator).

Text copyright is of individual contributors.

Designed by Alan McPherson.

Typesetting by Cityype, Leicester.

Printed in England by Hythe Offset Ltd.
BN5 9ES–96/65

© English Heritage 1989

English Heritage