Investigating the Invaders

Ramsey County Primary School show that a study of the Saxons can be an opportunity to capture children's enthusiasm to explore history for themselves.

Hail chief Beowulf, mightiest of men. 
Grendel will never threaten us again. 
Lest to the least our voices raise,
And Beowulf, we give you praise.

The sight of our class of 7/8 year-olds, fully attired in Saxon costume yellling out their victory shout at the conclusion of our Beowulf play, was magnificent. Could it really be the same children who had started on the Saxon trail only a few weeks before? And the classroom, littered with the flotsam of child produced artefacts and project work, had it really been so empty in January?

But to begin at the beginning, the summer vacation of 1991, when my table at home groaned under the weight of National-Curriculum documents. There I was, planning the forthcoming year's curriculum for my class, bearing in mind the comments from a previous staff meeting when the whole school policy towards history (as well as other areas of the curriculum) had been lined out. My challenge — to link History Supplementary study unit A, Food and farming with History Core study unit 1 Invaders and settlers, along with all the other National Curriculum demands, in a topic based approach. Thus it was

Saxon Warriors and Ladies outside their hut
New Video
Teaching on Site: Art, English and Music

Ancient monuments are often thought of as just places to study history but they have often been sources of inspiration for artists, writers and musicians.

This video examines the possibilities for Programmes of Study and Attainment Targets in Art, English and Music at an historic site — Dover Castle. We see a primary school class explore the castle itself for work in art and music. A GCSE group carry out a number of projects in creative writing and drama using the Second World War underground command headquarters which lie under the site.

Suitability: In-service training;
Initial teacher training.
25 minutes; 1992
Price £10.95
Also available on free loan.
Product Code: XT 12081
To order a copy please complete the Order Form on the back page of the 1992 Resources catalogue, included in this issue of Remnants.

give teachers the opportunity to try out a range of on-site activities for schools.
Kirby Hall, near Corby, with its Renaissance mansion, recently excavated gardens, deserted medieval village remains, and a wealth of documentary and pictorial evidence, provides an ideal base for cross-curricular activities relating to the Medieval, Tudor and Stuart periods at any level.

Each investigation follows a particular line of enquiry, and will show how to survey archaeological and architectural features, and work with archaeological finds, selected letters, maps, photographs and accounts, as well as secondary source material. Audio-visual material will also be available, and there will be an opportunity to make bookings for class visits.

For full details contact:
Rachel Shaw, Education Officer, Northamptonshire Archaeology Unit,
2, Bolton House, Wootton Hall Park,
Northampton, NN4 9BE.
Tel. 0604-700493/4/5.

Seminar on Evaluating Pupils' Learning from Museums, Galleries and Sites

To be held on Tuesday 21 July 1992 at the Department of Museum Studies,
University of Leicester.

This seminar will be of interest to teachers, advisers and museum educators.
It will focus on how we can evaluate whole projects as well as learning during a visit and learning on school from artefacts and pictures. There is no fee for the seminar.

Anyone wishing to attend should write to
Hazel Moffat HMI
D.E.S.
Turret House
Jenner Road
Guildford
Surrey GU1 2PS

Tourism and the Environment
Maintaining the Balance

This free fifty-six page colour booklet has been produced by the English Tourist Board and the Employment Department Group, and is a valuable resource for anyone teaching or studying tourism and the environment. It looks at the relationship between the tourist visitor, the place and their impact on the host community and addresses the contemporary problems that can be created such as traffic congestion, wear and tear, inappropriate developments affecting the environment. There is a section on approaches for managing the problems of conservation and adaptation and a wide variety of illustrated case studies, along with a useful bibliography.
Copies can be obtained from:
Department D
English Tourist Board
24 Grosvenor Gardens
London SW1 W 0ET
Tel. 01-846 9000

 Teachers' Days at Kirby Hall
Saturday 3 September 10.30-3.30pm
Tuesday 8 September 10.30-3.30pm

These practical days provided by the Northamptonshire Archaeology Unit will

Welcome
... to Jennie Fordham, our new Education Officer for the South East.
Jennie taught in a London Comprehensive School, for eleven years before joining the Southern Examining Group to develop National Curriculum related syllabuses. She then became education officer for two Heritage exhibitions in Kent before moving to English Heritage. Jennie is particularly keen to encourage teachers, through INSET courses, to see the potential of some of their local, perhaps less well known, English Heritage sites, and the everyday historic environment.

Questionnaire
Thank you to all those who recently completed our questionnaire on the work of the Education Service. We will shortly be analysing your comments and they will help us shape future developments in our service.

English Heritage has over 350 monuments open to the public.
Schools can make a free educational visit to any of our sites provided this is pre-booked through the relevant area office at least two weeks in advance. Teachers can also arrange a free exploratory visit beforehand to prepare ideas for the main visit later. The Education Service aims to provide teachers with as much help as possible. If you have any requests for further information please contact us at:

English Heritage Education Service
Keysign House
429 Oxford Street
London WIR 2HD
071-973 3442/3
Fax 071-973 3430

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

Text copyright is of individual contributors. Designed by Alan McPherson, Typesetting by Citype, Leicester. Printed in England by Hythe Offset Ltd. ISSN 0269-9826 © English Heritage 1992