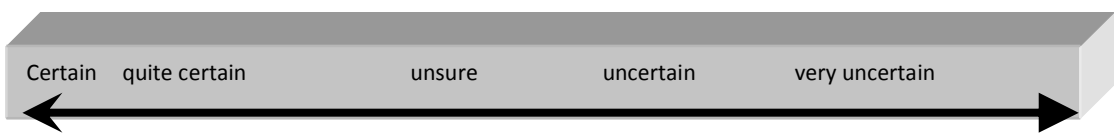




## The Homesick Girl's Letter (Session1)

Lesson plan prepared by Tim Coxon (Cardinal Newman School) and Emma Hearn (St John the Baptist Catholic School)

<b>Subject</b>	History - Victorians
<b>Year group</b>	5
<b>Learning intention</b>	To use and investigate a primary source To ask and answer questions, using evidence from a range of sources
<b>Organisation</b>	Introduction: whole class Main activity: small groups (mixed ability) Plenary: whole class
<b>Resources including use of ICT</b>	The following resources for this lesson are available from <a href="http://www.letterintheattic.org">www.letterintheattic.org</a> (follow link to education pack): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Muriel's letter (page 1 and 2)</li> </ul> The letter is displayed on the interactive white board. Copies of the letter are also printed and distributed to the children.
<b>Preparation</b>	You may wish to read the background information about Muriel's letter and Muriel's life which is available at: <a href="http://www.mybrightonandhove.org.uk/muriel">www.mybrightonandhove.org.uk/muriel</a>
<b>Introduction</b>	<i>Tell the children that a family in Brighton have found a letter in their attic. They have asked them to investigate it and to report back all they can find out about the letter - it seems to be quite old.</i>  Start by showing the first page of the letter on the IWB or providing copies for children to view. Tell the class that they are going to work as History Detectives and practice the skills that a historian would need to use to investigate the past. Do not give them any details about the letter except that it is an original and is therefore called a 'Primary resource'. Ask the children what skills they think they will need.
<b>Main teaching</b>	<b>Skill 1: Inquisitiveness</b> If needed, review question words. Ask the children to read the letter in pairs, discuss it, and on their whiteboards write down Likes/Dislikes and Questions they would like to ask about the letter.  <b>Skill 2: Judgement / best guess</b> Take feedback from pairs. Ask them to give evidence to support their ideas. Review the difference between fact and

	<p>opinion. Which things can we say are definitely true and which do we just think are true? Note all of children's questions on the IWB (type in questions separately so they can be moved around).</p> <p>Ask children to sort questions into:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Questions which can be answered using the Primary Source (Who is Muriel writing to? When was the letter written?)</li> <li>2. Questions we could answer using other sources (What was Muriel's house like? Why was Muriel away from her parents?)</li> <li>3. Questions we cannot answer. (Why did Muriel not like where she was living?)</li> </ol>
<i>Group work</i>	<p><b>Skill 3: Investigation</b></p> <p>Look at the 4 key questions below. Hopefully these will have been suggested by the class; if not, you may have to add them yourself during the brainstorm. Split the class into 4 teams and give them one of these questions each. Remind the children to back their ideas up with evidence from the letter. Give an example with the question: What type of language is it? (Formal / informal)</p> <p>Group 1: When was it written?</p> <p>Group 2: Is she rich or poor?</p> <p>Group 3: Why is she away from her family?</p> <p>Group 4: How old is she?</p>
<i>Plenary</i>	<p><b>Discussion</b></p> <p>Get groups to present their findings and ask the class how certain can we be (use a visual certainty scale).</p>
	
<i>Contributor details</i>	
<i>Plenary (cont.)</i>	<p>Review the skills that the children have used and ask them to assess how well they think they did. What can we tell the family for sure about Muriel and the letter?</p>
<i>Assessment opportunities/ evidence</i>	<p>Discussion with children during focussed teaching.</p> <p>Working with children during main activities.</p>

QueenSpark Books

Contact the project via [www.letterintheattic.org](http://www.letterintheattic.org) or [www.queensparkbooks.org.uk](http://www.queensparkbooks.org.uk)

Phone: 01273 571710  
Email: [info@letterintheattic.org](mailto:info@letterintheattic.org)