



The Homesick Girl's Letter (Session2)

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

<i>Subject</i>	History - Victorians
<i>Year group</i>	5
<i>Learning intention</i>	<p>To use and investigate a primary source</p> <p>To ask and answer questions, using evidence from a range of sources</p> <p>To use a range of sources to build empathy and understanding of an era</p>
<i>Organisation</i>	<p>Introduction: whole class</p> <p>Main activity: small groups (mixed ability)</p> <p>Plenary: whole class</p>
<i>Resources including use of ICT</i>	<p>The following resources for this lesson are available from www.letterintheattic.org (follow link to education pack):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Muriel's letter (page 1 and 2) - Muriel's letter (envelope) - Close-up image of the stamp and franking - A Brief History of Stamps - Map of Brighton in 1890 - Postcards of York Road and Western Road <p>The letter and envelope are displayed on the interactive white board. Copies are also printed and distributed to the children.</p>
<i>Introduction</i>	<p>Review the last lesson and the skills that the children have used.</p> <p><i>We have hopefully built up some ideas about the girl, her personality. We are going to try to find out more historical facts that may help us understand the letter and its origins.</i></p>
<i>Main teaching</i>	<p>The envelope, the stamp and the postmark</p> <p>Show the envelope on the IWB. Ask the children to look at the envelope with a partner. With their detective hats on, they should tell each other at least one thing that they can learn from it.</p> <p>Children feed back to class their ideas - collect them on the IWB.</p> <p>Show an enlargement of the stamp and postmark. Explore</p>

	<p>the stamp - read the lettering on the stamp to the children: <i>"Postage and Inland Revenue One Penny"</i></p> <p>What does this tell us about how old the letter is? What can you buy for 1p today?</p> <p>Explore the postmark. What is this mark and how was it made? Read the postmark: <i>"Western Ro. B.O. Brighton - 4 OCT 87"</i></p> <p>Ask about the date - is it 1887 or earlier? Whose face is on the Stamp? Queen Victoria.</p> <p>Show children an image of a Penny Lilac to get a clearer image of the face.</p> <p>Look at the supplementary timeline on 'A Brief History of Stamps'. Is this a Primary or Secondary source? What can we say about the date of the letter from the stamp?</p> <p>Ask children if the evidence from the envelope can be used to answer any questions that we still have about the letter and Muriel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When was the letter sent? - Where was it sent from? - What does the stamp tell us? - Focus on stamp and price. What can you buy for 1p today? Who is on the stamp? Why? Look at postmark. What other information does this give us? Why is it there? <p>Collate everything we can definitely say about the letter and the things we still want to know.</p>
<i>Main teaching (cont.)</i>	<p>The map and the postcards</p> <p>Explain that in today's session we are going to investigate Muriel's life using other Primary and Secondary sources. Do we know where Muriel lived? Do we know what it was like? Do we think it will be the same today as it was in 1887?</p> <p>Show children the map of Brighton c1890 from Black's Handy Atlas. What is the same? What is different? (Point out the piers are different: the map shows the Chain Pier instead of the Palace Pier.)</p> <p>Remind children of the address at the top of the letter. Locate York Road on the map. (It is north off Western Road. Go north from the West Pier to hit Western Road, and then go about 6 streets to the West.)</p> <p>Ask children where the letter was posted, as seen on the postmark - Western Road. Locate this on the map as well.</p> <p>Explain to children that we are going to investigate the places in Brighton that we know Muriel would have been familiar with. Show the postcards of York Road and Western Road. What has changed? What has stayed the same?</p> <p>Show children photos of Western Road as it is today from www.imagesbrighton.com (search for Western Road) and</p>

	<p>ask them to describe sights, sounds, smells etc. How would this have been different in 1887?</p> <p>Show photos of Western Road in the past by going to www.citylibraries.info/pictures and searching for Western Road via the Text Search.</p>
<i>Group work</i>	<p>Less able group</p> <p><i>Continue to work on Western Road and describe the changes from 1887 to present day. In groups of 4/5 children, imagine what it might have been like for Muriel. A group could describe Muriel's journey to post her letter and find it on a map. What would she have seen? Heard? Smelt?</i></p> <p>High ability group</p> <p><i>Investigate stamps and the arrival of the postal service during Victorian times.</i></p> <p><i>All groups prepare a short presentation to relate to class their findings.</i></p>
<i>Plenary</i>	<p>All groups to feedback their findings. Presentation to be used as part of display if appropriate.</p>
<i>Assessment opportunities/ evidence</i>	<p>Discussion with children during focussed teaching.</p> <p>Working with children during main activities.</p> <p>Focussed questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How do you know? - What else would you need to prove what you say? - Is that fact or opinion?

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