



History - Pupil's notes

Theme - The changing landscape

Introduction

In 1800, 90 % of the population worked in the countryside and 10 % in the towns. By the end of the century, only 25% lived in the countryside, with 75% living in towns and cities.

During this period, most towns and cities had witnessed great change. More homes were built to house the great numbers moving from the countryside to the town. However, the appearance of rural areas remained unchanged. Rural labourers lived mostly in cottages of mud, plaster and thatch with one room downstairs and one up, sometimes housing families of 10 or 12 children. These buildings might have looked picturesque, but they were damp and draughty to live in.

Life was often hard and work was monotonous for the men, women and children who laboured in the fields, particularly during harvest time.

Towards the end of the century, wages had risen and life was more comfortable for farm workers. Agricultural labourers, however, remained amongst the poorest paid of all workers.

Although people continued to move to the cities as the changing work patterns of industry over agriculture drove them to search for a better life, many continued to prefer life on the land.

Artists tried to capture this rural way of life, which they could see was fast disappearing as more and more people moved away from the land. Some of these artists romanticised the passing way of life as a rural idyll.

Lesson activities - Heritage trail leaflet

Key question - How has the rural landscape depicted in the works of Brian Hatton, changed?

Podcast

There is a podcast, which includes a discussion of a recent visit to some of the locations that Brian Hatton used in his paintings. [The Changing Landscape Podcasts.](#)

Resources

- Images from the Brian Hatton collection- go to Monika please insert the link to [The Changing Landscape, Artworks](#)
- Image of 'The Jenny Ring, Warham' by Brian Hatton – found at the end of this document.
- 1909 O.S. map of the local area
<http://leisure.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/products/historical-maps/historical-maps-historical-1-inch-to-1-mile>
- Modern Landranger map of the area
- Digital cameras
- Sketch books/notebooks

Note

Please respect the privacy of the current owners of the farms and properties depicted by Brian Hatton.

Background

In the time in which Brian Hatton lived there was still little mechanisation in farming. The horse still remained the main source of power. This is shown in many of his paintings. Although a milking machine had been developed in 1890 and the Pirie plough in 1863, many rural areas were reluctant to adopt the new scientific farming methods. Today most farms use machines and scientific methods in order to produce food.

Useful web links

http://www.smr.herefordshire.gov.uk/agriculture%20industry/arch_ind_index.htm

Information from **Herefordshire through time** on agriculture

http://www.smr.herefordshire.gov.uk/education/19th%20century/nineteenth_century.htm

Information from Herefordshire through time on Victorian life

<http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/leisure/archives/2940.asp>

Link to the Record Office

<http://www.old-maps.co.uk/> Online copies of old maps

Activity 1 - Landscapes

Explore the landscape images from the Brian Hatton collection and discuss these with a partner

Now look carefully at 'The Jenny Ring Warham'

What evidence does this painting provide about rural life in the past?

(This image shows the jenny ring. The jenny ring was a source of power for threshing corn or churning butter on the farm. Horses were harnessed to a

pole, which turned the wheel on the ground. Gears transferred the motion to a drive shaft connected to the machinery.)

Think about

- How the countryside was worked? Horse power/Man power.

Activity 2 - Map

Using a Landranger map of your local area and the 1909 OS map of your locality, identify as a class an area near to your home/ school location that you think will best illustrate rural change and continuity.

Think about

- Buildings
- Roads
- Pathways
- Fields /meadows
- Crops
- Farm machinery
- Animals.

Activity 3 - The chosen route

Walk the chosen route taking photographs/digital images and make notes/sketches of any features that you wish to add to your trail.

Activity 4 - Creating a leaflet

Make a bi-fold leaflet using your own paintings, sketches, digital images (see Art and Design activity), and some of Brian's artwork, in order to highlight change and continuity in the landscape over time.

Extension activity

Read or show some extracts from Flora Thompson's Larkrise to Candleford.

<http://www.reading.ac.uk/merl/>



The Jenny Ring, Warham