



Medieval Mementos Teachers' Resource

Age Range

EYFS

Key Stage 1

Curriculum Links

Art and Design

History

Number of Lessons

Two

Location

Church and School





Medieval Mementos

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About this publication

Project Aims

- To gather evidence about a heritage building.
- To recognise what a pilgrim is and why they visit pilgrim sites.
- To explore how people's lives today are similar or different to those in the past.

Description

Students will explore the church and the patterns, shapes and symbols they can see in it. These will be used to gather ideas to create their own pilgrim badge or memento of their visit.

Suitable For

Churches with Medieval links.

Find your local CCT church at visitchurches.org.uk

If you wish to deliver this activity in a church cared for by Churches Conservation Trust, please contact learning@theccct.org.uk to confirm availability and book the building.

If you wish to use a church not cared for by Churches Conservation Trust, please contact the relevant parish or diocese in advance.



Location

Church

Overview

Students will explore the church and the patterns, shapes and symbols they can see in it. These will be used to gather ideas to create their own pilgrim badge or memento of their visit.

Medieval Mementos

Lesson One

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Introduction

Question students on how old they think the building is.

- What things can they see that tell them that it is an old or new building?
- What type of building is it? – look for evidence – cross, pulpit, religious images etc.
- Who used this building in the past?

Activity

In pairs or small groups students explore the building, completing the worksheet.



Medieval Mementos

Lesson One

Aims

- To gather evidence about a heritage building.
- To recognise what a pilgrim is and why they visited pilgrim sites.
- To explore how people's lives today are similar or different to those in the past.

You Will Need

- Replica pilgrim badges or images
- Pencils
- Worksheets
- Magnifying glasses
- Clipboard, or similar

Discussion

Gather the class together and discuss -

- If you go somewhere special how do you get there?
- When this church was built how did people travel to a different place?

Discuss who could afford to travel and why non-noble people did not take holidays - they had to work!

Discuss what a pilgrim is and show examples of pilgrim badges.

Extension

Students think about what they have brought back from special places in the past.

Plenary

Share some of the jottings.



Location

School

Overview

Students will make their own pilgrim badge as a memento of their church visit.

Aims

- To recognise what a pilgrim is and why they visited pilgrim sites.
- To produce creative work, exploring ideas and reporting their experiences.

Medieval Mementos

Lesson Two

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Introduction

Re-cap learning from church visit:

- What is a pilgrim?

Show examples of pilgrim badges, allow students to investigate them.

Activity

Students will use their worksheet drawings to create their own pilgrim badge as a memento of their visit.

First draw a final design then use the available resources to make a badge.

Students can use a pencil to draw their badge outline on the back of the card and cut out.

Then they can draw detail of their design straight onto the shiny side of the card by pressing in with the pencil to look like metal.

Make up the badges with safety pins and tape.



Medieval Mementos

Lesson Two

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You Will Need

- Replica pilgrim badges or images
- Pencils
- Silver card
- Scissors
- Safety pins
- Masking tape to stick pin

Discussion

Pick one or two students to share their badge and explain why they chose that design.

Extension

Draw a pilgrim from the past wearing their pilgrim badge.

Plenary

Discuss what is similar and different from themselves and visitors to churches in medieval times.



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Teachers' Notes

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Pilgrims

Pilgrims usually travelled established routes, stopping off at various shrines, churches and cathedrals which had a link with a saint or miracle. Pilgrimages were also a way for people to travel and see things. Some pilgrims travelled oversea in boats to visit sites in French, Spain and even the Holy Land. Medieval pilgrims were from all classes but most were middle class.

The Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer is recognised as one of the great works of English literature. The story revolves around a group of about 29 pilgrims who are on their way from London to Canterbury to pray at the shrine of St Thomas Becket, one of the most popular pilgrimages in medieval times. An unfinished poem of about 17,000 lines, 'The General Prologue', provides an overview of the characters.

More about Geoffrey Chaucer:

chaucer.org.uk/the-life-of-geoffrey-chaucer/

The General Prologue, including a modern translation:

sites.fas.harvard.edu/~chaucer/teachslf/gp-par.htm

Medieval Mementos

Teachers' Notes

Pilgrim Badges

To prove they had visited a particular shrine, pilgrims bought lead or pewter souvenir badges. Pilgrim badges usually show an image relevant to the pilgrimage destination - the shrines, scene from the saint's life or an image of the person venerated there.

In London and Bristol, pilgrim badges have been found on the riverbed. Pilgrims would throw these in before they set sail to 'guarantee' a safe voyage or upon returning to give thanks for a safe return.

collections.museumoflondon.org.uk/Online/group.aspx?g=group-19998



Medieval Mementos

Name _____

Date _____

Walk around, look up at the ceiling, down at the floor and around corners

Then draw and make a note of:

<p>Something from above your head</p>	<p>Something from below your knees</p>
<p>Something which catches your eye</p>	<p>Something old</p>



Medieval Mementos

Name _____

Date _____

A shape or a symbol

Notes about pilgrims

A repeating pattern



This resource was created by CCT's Heritage Learning Team. To book a workshop, or if you have any feedback, questions or notice any problems with the resource, please get in touch:

learning@thecct.org.uk

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Learning at CCT

Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) is the national charity caring for historic churches and their heritage. With over 350 beautiful church buildings in its care, CCT's collection includes irreplaceable examples of art, architecture and archaeology from over 1,000 years of history.

Our churches are unique spaces that inspire creativity and learning at every age and stage of life. For centuries, these special buildings have witnessed personal moments and the collective histories of the local community they sit in. Today, we work with diverse communities across England to encourage the use, enjoyment and appreciation of these important places; a fundamental part of our shared heritage.

CCT's Learning and Participation Team offers a range of inclusive activities for schools, families and adults taking place in local churches, within communities and online. We welcome people of all faiths and none to engage with the stories and investigate the questions contained in these historic places. Our churches are free to access and open to all.

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