



CITY DISCOVERY CENTRE



Milton Keynes

Learning from our new city and our rich heritage

UNDERPASSES PROJECT

CONNECTING PEOPLE—CONNECTING PLACES



Education Pack

Supporting school workshops

Produced by Milton Keynes City Discovery Centre

Contents

On The Verge Project	2
MKCDC	3
Workshop Overview	4
Post Workshop Activities	5
Geography Survey	6
Building the imagination	8
Oral Histories	9
Creative Writing	9
Character Journal	9
Newspaper report	9
Character letters	9
Developing the Story	10
Walk the story	10
Creating Links	10
Seeing the other side	10
Resources	11



Underpasses Project

On the Verge is a community interest company delivering projects of a visual art and community nature, with a mind to improve public spaces for the benefit of local residents and the preservation of urban heritage.

The Underpasses project is part of the city celebrations for MK50 which will run throughout 2017, but focus on the 50th anniversary of Milton Keynes on the 23rd January.

The aim of the project is to connect residents to the unique heritage of the 'New Town' and the pre-New Town history, by building a sense of places through personal reflections of four estates by the residents, and working with artists to renovate and breathe new life into the underpasses connecting four estates.

The MKCDC and OTV are partnering to provide the school outreach programme within the four estates, along with the project artist collective RARA. The workshops have been designed and are delivered by the MKCDC on behalf of the OTV.

The MKCDC @ Bradwell Abbey

The Milton Keynes City Discovery Centre is an educational charity which houses an archive of the development of Milton Keynes as a New Town, and the heritage of the local area. Through education experience days, lectures, city tours, public events, and out reach programs MKCDC informs residents and visitors to Milton Keynes about its unique urban geography and the long history of the area, including the past 50 years of development.



Established in 1987, Milton Keynes City Discovery Centre aims to increase understanding and appreciation of Milton Keynes' unique urban geography and rich local history. We offer a diverse range of learning experiences tailored to geography and history curriculum and beyond. Since 1992 MKCDC has been based at the medieval Scheduled Ancient Monument site of Bradwell Abbey combining geographically and ethically the historic past of Milton Keynes with its present and into the future.

Bradwell Abbey is the site and remains of a medieval Benedictine Priory and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (no.19062). Nationally it is significant because it contains a relatively unusual survival, a dedicated pilgrimage chapel with stunning contemporary wall paintings. Locally it is important because it is one of a number of historic sites in and around Milton Keynes that provide major insights into the medieval history of the area and it is an important local wildlife site.

Bradwell Priory had a chequered history and seemed to lurch from crisis to crisis throughout its 372-year life. 181 hectares of land were granted in 1154 to Meinfelin (Lord of Wolverton) for the establishment of a Benedictine priory to the west of Bradwell. A small priory, Bradwell managed to survive until the 16th century, but by then it was in a shocking state, with many semi-derelict buildings on the site. Under the Act for the Suppression of Minor Houses, Bradwell Priory was given to Cardinal Wolsey, by papal consent in July 1524.

The earliest surviving map of the site is an estate map of 1797, itself based on an earlier mid 18th century map, which identifies the full extent of the parish (then the Manor) of Bradwell Abbey. It remained at this size until the development of Milton Keynes and the industrial estate in 1973, when the site became confined to the boundary of the Priory Precinct, the same extent that is visible today.



Workshop overview

Aims of Workshop

Fun and engaging exploration of our connection to place, and special heritage
Covers National Curriculum: English Literature, History and Geography, Citizenship
Encouraging local communities to explore outside spaces and underpasses

Half day session plan

Introduction to project.

Storytelling – Theseus and the Minotaur.

Why did I tell that story – links to MK

Brief History of MK, Development Corporation and links to existing settlements.

Green city

Before MK there was a lot of history, including Anglo Saxons, who used Secklow Mound as meeting place.

Anglo Saxon stories linking to locations and heroes.

Symbolism in stories

Break

Story creating section

Developing ideas

Using local maps to recreate a story map of their hero quest

Looking at story structure and language use.

Feedback time for students who want to share what they have created so far.

This workshop is designed to kick start creating oral and written stories and associated art work. It is not expected for the students to have finished pieces, but to have been given the tools to develop initial ideas. Participants of these workshops and their teaching facilitators are encouraged to progress this work into fully developed stories, whether written, story-boarded, or orally recorded through the use of the following activities.

There will be a follow up workshop starting at the Library and including a session at the Secklow Mound involving all the schools which have been part of the project. This will be a chance to share the stories the pupils have created and collaborate to make cross school/area narratives.

There will be a separate event at Secklow Mound as part of this project on 21st January which all participants of these workshops are invited to.

Post Workshops Activities

To support and continue the work the students develop in the workshop, on the following pages there are a number of activities which encourage children to explore their local area and see it with new eyes. These activities include geography, history, English literature and creative exercises to inspire students to think about their aspirations for the area which they call home, and how connections to other parts of Milton Keynes.

We encourage teachers to select which exercise will benefit their class's learning, not all the activities have to be used, and they can be done in any order.

Notes for the activities;

GEOGRAPHY SURVEY OF MY AREA

This can be used for students to review their area, or could be done twice, once on their own area, and then a second time to compare another area, for this project it might be useful to use one of the other focus areas of Conniburrow, Downs Barn, Fishermead, and Oldbrook.

BUILDING THE IMAGINATION

A creative drawing exercise to encourage students to think about the architecture of the local area, and what buildings in their story they would like to see in their own area.

ORAL HISTORIES

Oral histories are the personal stories people have connected to a particular event or location. This exercise could be given as an exercise they could take home and find out from their families, or perhaps a teacher, other member of staff or parent could be invited in to be interviewed by the whole class.

CREATIVE WRITING

Here are a few ideas of how to use the oral stories to inspire creative writing, these could be worked through to develop a deeper understanding of the stories, or the most appropriate exercise could be chosen to and worked on in depth.

DEVELOPING THE STORY

This section encourages the students to think more carefully about their stories, and how it connects to the local area, and the other people they share their area with. The exercises push the stories through initial ideas and require students to discover deeper levels to their work.

Post Workshop Activities

GEOGRAPHY SURVEY OF MY AREA

The name of the area you are surveying.....

The dateYour name.....

1. Stop, look, listen: stand still and slowly take in your surroundings. What are your first impressions of this area: (tick the one that most closely fits your feelings)

Great, I'd like to live here

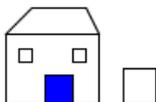
O.K but like many other places

I feel uncomfortable here

I feel afraid here

2. What are the main building types: (please tick)

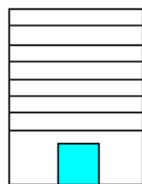
Detached housing
(Standing by itself)



Semi-detached
(Two houses sharing one wall)



Terraced (lots of houses joined together)



Apartments/flats

Shops



School



Doctor's

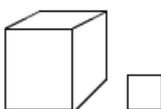


3. What are the roofs like?

Mainly pitched (pointy)



or flat



Which do you prefer?

Post Workshop Activities

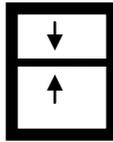
4. What material is on the roofs?

- Slate (thin Black, shiny when wet)
- Tiles (thick, concrete-type material)
- Anything else? Thatch? Wood?

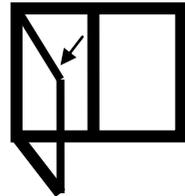


5. Look at the windows – are they:

Sash



Casement



6. Can you see the bricks like this:



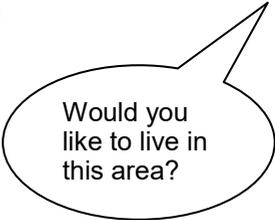
Or are the bricks covered up (rendered) or are the buildings made with something other than bricks?

7. Look around you. Tick the things that you feel fit the area

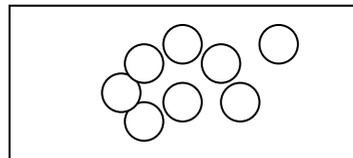
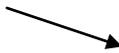
clean.....busy.....quiet.....dirty.....pleasant to look at.....

Does it have: lots of trees.....lots of grass.....

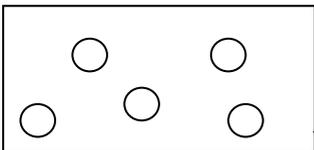
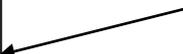
any ponds/lakes.....



Are the buildings/houses close together like this (called high density)



Or are they spread out like this (called low density)



Post Workshop Activities

Building the imagination

Thinking about the story you started in the workshop, are there any buildings which are in the story. **Draw it here:**

Is it based on buildings you see everyday or something from the past or future?

Where would you place this building in your neighbourhood?

Can you find any pictures of your area in the past that you could stick your drawing on?

What is it be used for?

Post Workshop Activities

Oral Histories

Interview a family member or friend about their impression of Milton Keynes.

Suggested questions:

1. How long have you lived in Milton Keynes?
2. Did you live anywhere before Milton Keynes, and if so what was it like seeing Milton Keynes for the first time?
3. What was it like to see the city develop, and continue to develop?
4. What is your favourite feature of Milton Keynes, and what is the worst?
5. What is the best thing about living in your part of Milton Keynes?
6. Is there anything you don't like about your area?
7. If you could ask for anything to make your area better what would it be?
8. Tell me about the most special day you have had in Milton Keynes.

Creative Writing

Create a journal for your main character from before, or after their adventure. Journals are generally the place where people can write down the everyday things that happen to them, say how they feel. They can write about secrets or things they want to remember. It can include drawings, and scraps (such as found objects: leaves, buttons, flowers).

Create a newspaper or news report. Think of a snappy headline that will make people want to find out more. When a journalist reports on a piece of news, they try to talk about it without being on one side or the other, this is called being objective. Think about your story as though you were a by-stander witnessing it happen, but not being part of it. What would you see that the characters could not because they are involved. Could you interview characters to get their opinions, would good and bad characters have the same opinion. What images might support your article.

Write a letter from one character to another. Think about why these characters might be writing, is a bad guy trying to say sorry or demand a surrender, are the two characters friends or enemies, are they sharing a secret that can only be passed in a letter or have they not seen each other for a long time?

Post Workshop Activities

Developing the Story

The stories we started to develop are what are called 'oral stories', so they are not written down. In many cases tradition stories and folk tales were shared in communities by word of mouth, and folklorist wrote them down a long time after they were created.

Walk the story

Sometimes folk stories were connected to particular places, and people would remember the stories because they were attached to somewhere they passed every day.

1. Your stories are connected to the area you live. Draw the route of your story on a map of your local area and use it to go on a walk of your story, take your family or friends along and tell them your story.
2. Ask if they have any stories whether real tales, personal stories (things that happen to them) or made up stories, about your area.

Creating Links

1. The Theseus and the Minotaur story is part of the Greek Myths, and although it can be told on its own, it also links in to other stories such as Poseidon, Icarus and Daedalus, King Minos, and Bacchus to name a few. How could your story link into other stories in your class, or stories you have learnt about your local area?
2. Working in groups. See if you can find connections or heroes that link the stories in your groups, could a hero from one story be a minor character in another story. Could a bad guy in one story find their way into other stories.

Seeing the other side

1. Most stories are told from the point of view of the hero character, try telling the story from the point of view from:
 - Minor character
 - Bad character
 - A something that doesn't usually talk (an animal, location, or object)

Resources

2016. [online]. The Living Archive. [viewed 28/5/16]. <http://www.livingarchive.org.uk/>
2016. [online]. Destination Milton Keynes. [viewed 28/5/16]. <http://www.destinationmiltonkeynes.co.uk>
2016. [online]. Milton Keynes City Discovery Centre. [viewed 28/5/16]. <http://www.mkcdc.org.uk/>
2016. [online]. Milton Keynes Heritage Association. [viewed 28/5/16]. <http://www.mkheritage.co.uk/>
2016. Arts, Public Art & Heritage. [online]. Milton Keynes Council. [viewed 28/5/16]. <http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/leisure-tourism-and-culture/arts-and-heritage/arts-organisations>
- Bendixson, Terence & John Platt. Milton Keynes: Image and Reality (Granta Editions, Cambridge, 1992)
- British Pathé
- Clapson, M., 2014. The Plan for Milton Keynes. Abingdon: Routledge.
- Cook, R., 2004. More of Milton Keynes: Building on the vision. Gloucestershire: Sutton.
- Croft, R.A., Mynard D.C., The Changing Landscape of Milton Keynes (Longdunn Press, Bristol, 1993)
- Discover Milton Keynes
- Hill, M., 2005. Memories of Milton Keynes. Gloucestershire: Tempus.
- Hill, M., 2009. Milton Keynes Through Time. Gloucestershire: Amberley.
- Hill, Marion. Milton Keynes Then & Now In Colour (The History Press, Stroud, 2012)
- Llewelyn-Davies, Weeks, Forestier-Walker & Bor, 1968. Milton Keynes: Interim Report. London: Milton Keynes Development Corporation.
- Markham, F., 1986. History of Milton Keynes and District, Vol 1. Bedfordshire: White Crescent.
- Milton Keynes Central Library
- Milton Keynes City Discovery Centre: Archive and Library.
- Milton Keynes Council
- Milton Keynes Journal of Archaeology and History [Ed. Brown O.F] (Grillford, Stony Stratford, 1974)
- Mundy, H., 1992. I'll Tell You What Happened... Milton Keynes: Living Archive Press.
- On The Verge
- Plan for Milton Keynes 1970 Vol 1. & Vol. 2.
- Popoola, Susan. Touching the Heart of Milton Keynes – A social perspective (Authorhouse, 2008)
- The BFI
- The Living Archive

This education pack was written by Terrie Howey, Education Officer at MKCDC. Please contact education@mkcdc.co.uk for more information. Thank you.

© MKCDC 2016