

A HISTORY OF THE NORTH EAST IN 100 OBJECTS

A Toolkit for Teachers Primary: KS1 and KS2

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A History of the North East in 100 Objects A Toolkit for Teachers – Introduction to the themes Primary: KS1 and KS2

Introduction to 'A History of the North East in 100 Objects'

This project tells the story of the creativity and innovation that springs from the North East, as told through a 'virtual exhibition' of 100 objects held by museums, galleries and archives across the North East. Some represent engineering or inventive firsts, some mark a creative person, and some have several stories to tell. All, however, demonstrate that the North East is a region which has seen incredible moments that have changed itself and the world!

Introduction to the themes

To help you find your way through all the objects, they are grouped by themes. The themes are:

Industry – Traditionally, when we think of North East we think of heavy manufacturing like coal mining, shipbuilding and steel manufacture. But historically the region was also famous for its glass and ceramics. The objects in this section all relate to industry in the region.

Inventions and Firsts – From the electric light bulb to Lucozade, many world-famous things were invented in the North East. This section contains objects that were either firsts or inventions, all which were created in the region.

Engineering – Many innovations in engineering have happened in the North East, including the development of the passenger railway. This section looks at objects relating to bridges, railways, maritime developments and power.

Art, Craft and Design – From the time that Bede first began to write the English history, the North East has been a place of artistic creativity. Objects in this section range from paintings, music and literature, to crafts that were used around the home.

Society – The North East has led the way in the areas of shopping and sport, learning, discovery and social reform. Objects in this section relate to the way the North East is constantly striving to improve life for its people.

Using the objects across the curriculum

The activities listed here are intended to provide ideas of ways of incorporating the objects into lessons and activities in the classroom, but can also be used to generate ideas for engaging with the objects in person. Each activity is designed to be flexible so they can work with a number of objects. We have grouped the activities by curriculum area, however most objects and activities are cross-curricular. Unless otherwise stated, these activities are adaptable for Key Stages 1 & 2.

Questions to consider when looking at the objects

Having a discussion with the pupils about the objects can help them to think about their use, their history and more. Here are some questions you could use:

Description

- What can you see?
- Which words would you use to describe it?
- How would you describe it to a person who could not see it?

Relate it

- What does it remind you of?
- How is it different from things you see today?
- What interests you most about it?

Social Status

- Were the people who used or owned this object rich or poor?
- What about the object makes you think that?

Historical Reference

- Does this look like an object from long ago?
- When do you think it was made?
- What about this object is different than things we see today?

Practical Elements

- What is the object made of?
- What do you think it might have been used for?
- How big do you think it is in real life?
- How heavy do think it is?

Opinions

- What do you like / not like about the object? Give reasons for your opinion.
- Why do you think it's in a museum (or on display elsewhere) now?
- Do you think the object is important?

Emotions

- How do you think the owner of this object felt about it?
- What makes you think that?
- How does thinking/talking about this object make you feel?