

CARNIVAL
ARCHIVE PROJECT



History Workshop Resource for Schools



Starter (10mins)

Introduction to the project and what an archive is, including looking at the Carnival Archive website.

- The Carnival Archive Project is creating a digital archive of carnivals and street celebrations in the east of England. What is a carnival? Who has been to a carnival? What is an archive?
- Bring up the Carnival Archive website. Show the group the archive and get them to think about the different things that can go into an archive (e.g. photographs, maps, letters, programmes, etc.). The focus of this session is on photographs and the pupils need to be detectives and undertake some investigation work.

Activity 1 (20 mins)

Looking at photographs; comparing and contrasting; identifying differences and similarities.

- Two tables are set up, one with old photographs and one with new photographs, all from the archive. Pupils look carefully at all the photographs. Write down all the similarities and differences they find between the old and the new. Encourage them to look not only at who and what is in the carnival, but also at the people watching and things in the background.
- Talk through what they have seen and discuss reasons behind things changing or staying the same.

Activity 2 (25 mins)

What we mean by oral history; working in pairs using a given source, developing questions and interviewing each other.

- What is oral history?
- Divide into pairs. Each group chooses one of the photographs to focus on. One pupil picks a person from the photograph and pretends to be them while the other pupil is an interviewer trying to find out more about what is happening at the carnival in the picture. Encourage questions such as 'What can you see?' 'What can you hear?' 'Why are you taking part?' etc. The interviewee then thinks of answers to these, using their observational skills (what they can see in their image), memory (remembering what they have seen in the other photographs to enhance their answer), and imagination. They write their questions and answers down then practice the interview.
- Pupils rehearse their interviews so they're not so reliant on their notes, and then perform in front of the whole group. Their interviews can be recorded.

Plenary (5 mins)

Summarising the session.

- From looking at the photographs, what is carnival? what can it include? Who takes part?

Curriculum links

History: change and continuity; looking at history from a cultural perspective; using sources for investigation; historical enquiry – asking and answering questions.

English: speaking; listening; small group/pair discussion and interaction.