

Dulcimers in the UK

Activity Ideas and Lesson Plans

DULCIMER HISTORY - BIRMINGHAM, EAST ANGLIA AND GLASGOW

During the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries the dulcimer was at the heart of community traditions in various areas of the UK. Read about the regions which are close to where you live and find out more by using the additional information in the Useful Links and Resources section of the Dulcimer Education Pack.

VICTORIAN HOME ENTERTAINMENT

Look at the photograph of the dulcimer player and the other folk musicians outside the pub in Yardley, Birmingham and discuss how this group of musicians would have played music to entertain groups of people of all ages in pubs like this or often in people's living rooms.

To see how Victorian houses were different from our home today watch:

Josie and Gleep in a Step Back in Time to 1900 (BBC):

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/dynamo/history/stepback.htm

Discuss what life was like for Victorian children. There were big differences in homes, schools, toys and entertainment. No TV, no computers, no central heating, no cars (until the last few years of Victoria's reign). No air travel - unless you went up in a balloon!

Discuss the different household objects and how they are similar/different to today. Ask children to research one household object present in Victorian homes and produce a fact file and illustration about it.

DULCIMER MUSIC WORKSHOPS

The Nonsuch Dulcimer Club has members all over the UK who can be booked to run workshops or hold demonstrations of both hammered and Appalachian dulcimers to enable students to learn about the music, history and have a go at this unusual instrument. The Nonsuch Dulcimer Club has a Child Protection Policy. Some of its members have DBS checks and teaching experience. Contact the Nonsuch Dulcimer Club by visiting www.dulcimer.org.uk.

FOLK MUSIC AND DANCING

Dulcimers have always been used to play folk music which often accompanied traditional folk dances. Use the English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS) resources below to teach your class simple folk dances. www.efdss.org/efdss-education/resource-bank/resources-and-teaching-tools/creative-folk-dance-for-primary-schools. If you require further help with a folk music or dance related activity you please contact the EFDSS education department on education@efdss.org, or 020 7241 8953 who may be able to suggest a local person or refer your enquiry on to their folk educators group.

