



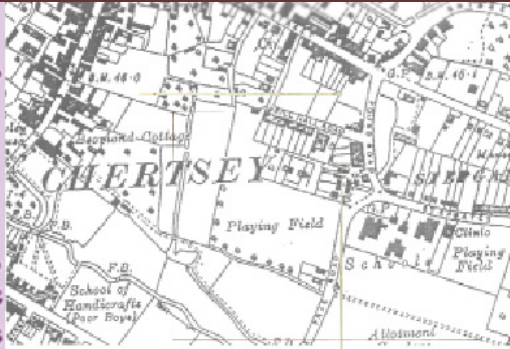
Learning Curve  
Education Service Workshops

Key stage 3

# What is history?

An introduction to working with original documents

I feel pretty bitter about it,  
of my men that was lying there,  
r unit.  
ou lost any friends?  
any friends at the moment, no.  
next week ...  
a like to go shopping in London,  
he turns round and says - 'right  
got five minutes to leave the s



Report No. 22,434      Titled as... "This Week"  
Length 33 mins      Date... 1st February, 1972      Time 9.30 p.m.  
Short Title "Steady Sunday"

**OFFICER:** Give briefing on the operation this morning.  
Op. number, being ten a'clock to eleven-thirty, our area  
is the northern area as given. Okay, you provide two sniper  
posts high up on the building and depth to the V.C.P. position.  
By post V.C.P. - okay? 1500, continue, we move in approx-  
imately two minutes from now.

**ADJUTANT:** Men of the 1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment  
knew on duty in the streets of Belfast yesterday. (Pile)

**SOLDIER:** Well, there shouldn't be fights here, they haven't  
been here before and we have left a salience in the back ...  
know or don't going up, people are bound to be suspicious.

**OFFICER:** Just in that shop there?

**SOLDIER:** Yes, but I suggest if you do park outside someone's  
premises again, especially a garage which has been a target, that  
you do park there that morning because it has been that is the  
best place to park it because it has been that is the best place to park it

22	Richard	William	William	William	William
	Sarah	William	William	William	William
	Betty	William	William	William	William
	Thomas	William	William	William	William
24	Joseph	William	William	William	William
	Robert	William	William	William	William
	Charles	William	William	William	William



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# Teacher's notes

## Aims of the workshop

This workshop aims to help students understand about the different types of sources that can be used to find out about the past, and learn how to use them as evidence for investigating the past. It is designed to build on work students have done at key stage 2, and prepare them for working with sources at key stage 3.

## Documents

This workshop doesn't have specific documents for students to use in their preparation activity. The aim of the activity is for students to search the National Archives Learning Curve website to find examples of different types of documents listed on the worksheet.

You can limit students to 'Snapshots' if you wish to make the activity simpler, or they can include 'Exhibitions' in their search to give them a much broader range of material.

<http://www.learningcurve.gov.uk/index/snapshots.htm>

<http://www.learningcurve.gov.uk/index/exhibitions.htm>

## Activity

Students can either work individually or in groups to complete the activity. This can be done in the class or set as homework. Students will need to have access to a computer and the Internet.

Give each student or group a copy of the worksheet and explain that their task is to search through Learning Curve, using 'Exhibitions' and 'Snapshots' to try and find an example of each document listed on the worksheet. The documents in 'Exhibitions' and 'Snapshots' are all scanned images of original documents from our collection.

The first one, an example of a plan has already been filled in to show you what is required. Once students have found an image of the document, they need to write down:

- Where on Learning Curve they found it (copying and pasting the link to the document where possible)
- What its date is
- What questions they would like to ask about it to help them investigate the information in it more closely and work out how useful it might be to them as a source.

Before the workshop, ask the students to report back on what they have found, and choose the best example of each type of source to talk about in the videoconference workshop.

## The workshop

There are two versions of the workshop, one for year 7 and one for year 9. Both workshops will begin with a brief introduction to The National Archives and what is kept here.

- Year 7 version: this focuses on using sources to ask and answer questions for historical investigations

- Year 9 version: this focuses on assessing the reliability and usefulness of sources for historical investigations.

## Year 7 workshop

The workshop will begin with a discussion on the types of documents found in an archive, with an opportunity for students to talk about examples they found on Learning Curve for the preparation exercise. We will then go on to discuss how historians use original documents to carry out an historical investigation. Students will be asked how they questioned the documents they found for the preparation activity, and how they think they might follow up with more research.

The next part of the workshop aims to help the students understand how an historical investigation is carried out by putting the ideas discussed into practice, with an online investigation they can carry out. The topic chosen for this is based on the Victorians, a subject most year 7 students will be familiar with from their KS 2 studies. The students will take the lead in carrying out an historical investigation from formulating an initial question, to using different sources to ask and answer questions, guided by the education officer delivering the workshop. They will be asked to discuss the usefulness of each document they study, as well as where they might look for further answers to the questions posed by individual documents. The range of documents used will include a map, photograph and census return. After the workshop, students will be encouraged to continue the investigation on line using Learning Curve's Focus On the Census.

The session will conclude with students being shown images of some of the most famous documents stored here at the National Archives. These will include the Domesday Book, Guy Fawkes confession, William Shakespeare's will and the SOS from the doomed Titanic. The students will be given the opportunity to ask questions at the end of the session.

## Year 9 workshop

The workshop will begin with a discussion on the types of documents found in an archive, with an opportunity for students to talk about examples they found on Learning Curve for the preparation exercise. The education officer will then go on to show and explain to students some of the more unusual types of documents that we have, and explain more about the role of the National Archives.

The next part of the workshop will focus on discussing the usefulness and reliability of documents to introduce the idea of how they can give us very different interpretations of the same event, and how they can be adapted or shaped to give a particular point of view. The education officer will show images of documents to illustrate this, which will pick up on topics that students are familiar with from KS 2 such as images of Henry VIII, and those they will be going on to study, including the Domesday Book.

The concluding discussion will aim to clarify students' ideas about usefulness and reliability, and how as historians they need to work carefully with a wide range of documents to understand and interpret the past.

## Knowledge, skills and understanding

- Getting hands on experience at studying history through a range of original documents, such as official reports, correspondence, newspaper articles and photographs
- Undertaking research activities to gain experience of using historical sources critically in their context by comprehending, analysing, evaluating and interpreting them
- Debating with the education officer leading the workshop, and amongst themselves to organise and communicate their knowledge and ideas

## Objectives and outcomes

Students taking part in this workshop will learn:

- That different types of sources can supply different types of information
- That several different types of source are useful for finding out about the past
- How to describe and interrogate a source
- That even though the information in a source may not be reliable (i.e. telling us the truth about an event or person) it can still be a very useful source to a historian

## QCA scheme of work link

- History at key stage 3 (Year 7)  
Unit 1: Introductory unit what's it all about?  
Section 2: What are we going to find out about history in years 7, 8 and 9?  
[http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/schemes2/secondary\\_history/his01/01q2?view=get](http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/schemes2/secondary_history/his01/01q2?view=get)

## Useful links

- The Learning Curve website:  
[www.learningcurve.gov.uk](http://www.learningcurve.gov.uk)
- To book a workshop:  
[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/contact/form/educationserviceform.asp?id=7&action=1](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/contact/form/educationserviceform.asp?id=7&action=1)
- For more information about onsite workshops:  
[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/educationservice/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/educationservice/)

**Worksheet**

<b>Document to find</b>	<b>What does it show / tell us?</b>	<b>Where did you find it on the Learning Curve</b>	<b>When was it made? Give the year, or century</b>	<b>What questions would you want to ask about it?</b>
<i>Plan</i>	<i>Plan of Coldbath Prison</i>	<i>Snapshot: A Victorian Prison</i>	<i>1884 – the 19<sup>th</sup> century</i>	<i>Where was it? Who was sent there? What was the treadmill house for? Were all Victorian prisons like this?</i>
Letter				
Photograph				
Map				
Cartoon				
Film				
Newspaper				
Diary				
Propaganda Poster				
Advertisement				
Drawing / Painting				