
Education Department

Activity List 2017 / 2018

Butter

Students take turns to churn cream into butter and can then taste the butter on crackers. During the activity the children observe the process of butter-making and learn about its importance to 19th century house-wives - a far cry from getting the margarine pot out of the fridge. The remainder of the butter is sent back to the school with the teacher. If the children are lucky, the teacher may do some baking!

Clever Communication

Year 3 and above

Students investigate the ways we used to communicate in the past — pigeon post, morse code and more— a time without digital devices. Braille was invented in the 19th century and in this activity students will be studying how to use it to compose their own personal message.

Clothing

Using replica clothing, students become acquainted with the changing fashions of Victorian times. Some of the students are dressed Victorian style as a fun way of answering many questions about historic clothing. Girls discover how would it feel to wear a bustle and if they would like to wear a corset. The boys model a selection of menswear ensuring the appropriate etiquette is always maintained. Using our doll, see the layers of underwear worn in the 1800's and be very thankful we still don't wear all those layers today!

Cooking

Year 4 and above - Term 2 and Term 3 ONLY

Experience the atmosphere and ambience of a real Victorian kitchen. Students roll up their sleeves as they measure, mix and cook using our old wood-fired range. They compare the gadgets of yesteryear with modern technology, admire the dining room set ready for the evening meal and take their cooking back to school.

* If circumstances dictate we reserve the right to substitute this activity with another, without notice.

Courthouse

Year 6 and above

Step into our authentic 1848 Howick Courthouse and play the parts of real 19th Century Howick characters embroiled in a genuine court case. Learn about the development of our justice system and compare this historic court case with what happens in the 21st Century. Learn about the different ideologies held by people in 1848 which are demonstrated by the court case. This is an exciting and challenging activity for students who are good readers.

Dig

Discover how archaeology has helped teach us about the past. Students participate in their own "mini" archaeological dig using special equipment to dig for a variety of artefacts which are buried in sand-filled boxes. Students learn how archaeology can tell us a story about our past and so of its importance to a place like the Howick Historical Village. An educational and enjoyable activity which also stimulates the students' imaginations as they weave stories about the treasures they uncover! Each student records their findings in a take-home booklet.

Helpful Herbs

Year 3 and above

A voyage of discovery as you fill your trug with herbs from our garden. A hands-on activity where students investigate the mysteries behind Victorian herbal remedies. They will explore our garden of both fragrant and stinky smells and find out whether the potions they mix kill or cure. They will also consider whether these same herbs are crushed, boiled, or applied unchanged in today's world.

Jolly Trolleys

Year 5 and above

It's a race!! Work as a team to assemble a trolley in the time given. A wonderful technology-based activity where children cooperate to find the best and quickest method of construction. Using a picture as a guide with the nuts, bolts, pins, wheels and axles supplied, the trolley is assembled and perhaps given a test run!

Migrant Women

Year 6 and above

Using a combination of poignancy and humour an Irish woman and her friend, together with children chosen from the audience, pack for the journey to New Zealand or unpack on their arrival - no wonder they have difficulty knowing whether they're "comin' or goin'"! Are the items

packed similar to those you would pack for an overseas trip? Laugh as some of the more humorous items are revealed! This first-person interpretation challenges older students to reflect on the 'push-me/pull-you' factors behind the momentous decision of families to join the Fencible scheme.

Nursery Rhymes

It is amazing how few Nursery Rhymes today's children know. We offer a selection of Nursery Rhymes popular in the 19th Century for children to sing along and to do the actions. The history of some of these rhymes is fascinating and we give a brief background and then launch into hand-clapping games such as Mulberry Bush and Oranges and Lemons and perhaps a march to the Grand Old Duke of York. This activity is more suitable for Years 0 to 3 or 4 but can be readily adapted to older classes.

Outdoor Games

A chance for children who have never walked on stilts, thrown a quoit or played with a skipping rope to have a go! For this dry weather activity, students get the chance to learn how to play with a wide range of Victorian outdoor toys such as log-walkers, diablos, hoops and skimmers and graces while at the same time learning about the way in which toys were made and leisure time was utilised in the 1800s.

Parlour Games

Wonderful indoor entertainment which is extremely suitable if the weather is doubtful or the area of study is 'leisure time'. Traditional parlour games of the mid to late 1800's are chosen to suit all age groups and to enable group participation for all of the time. Often the venue is our authentic Parlour in Puhinui Homestead and a good time is guaranteed for all.

Rag Rug

A relaxing and therapeutic activity which gives students the chance to start making their own mini rag rug on hessian. A question and answer session encourages the students to consider the reasons behind rag rug making and the origin of the resources used. This sociable activity is enjoyed by students of all ages, both girls and boys.

Raupo Hut Model

Year 5 and above

Groups of students start building a miniature Raupo Hut. They work cooperatively on different aspects of the construction e.g. roof, raupo bundles for the walls, framework, rope tying and furnishings. We have Raupo Whares in the Village for students to inspect and replicate. This technology-based activity relies on problem-solving abilities to achieve a satisfactory outcome. The huts are taken back to school to complete as desired.

School

Enter our authentic Victorian classroom to step back in time to 1850 and participate in a school lesson which was typical of that time. Children are expected to be on their best behaviour and woe betides those with dirty hands or fingernails! The lesson includes handwriting (Slates for years 0-4, pen & ink for years 5 and above), arithmetic and spelling, with a good dose of discipline and 1850's social comment thrown in!

Spot the Difference

Children love a treasure hunt and this is one with a difference! It's a competition to see which group is first to identify the 20th or 21st Century items craftily hidden in some of our buildings. The items are more obvious for our younger visitors but much more challenging for the older ones, to encourage investigation into what discoveries initiated inventions and when and how things developed.

Trunk

Watch enthralled as items are removed from a typical Fencible trunk. Children can be hands on as they light the fire, revive it with bellows, prepare a meal, do the ironing and much more! A wonderful way to learn about the uses of Victorian household items and the differences between original Victorian appliances and those used in the 21st Century. Older students get just as much satisfaction in guessing what completely unfamiliar items might be and learning how life was for 19th Century New Zealanders.

Toys

This activity is every child's dream – to be able to play with all the wonderful old toys of yesteryear. Students are encouraged to think about the differences between their toys and those from the 19th Century. They are shown a variety of authentic and replica toys and then it is time to explore and have fun. Questions are posed about the physics and technology involved with the making and operation of the toys, meaning that this activity can be made appropriate to a variety of age-groups.

Victorian “Project Runway”

Year 6 and above - GIRLS ONLY

Students design and create their own Victorian jacket out of paper using illustrations and a bit of expert advice from the Educators. This is a fun, challenging activity, combining the history of fashion with fabric technology. One girl per group models the creation and the best outfit is assessed by popular vote.

Washday

Term 1 and Term 4 ONLY

Prepare to get a little wet as students do the village washing 1850's style! Children learn about washing in Victorian times and get to use scrubbing boards, dollies and blue-bags to wash and rinse their laundry. They have to fetch the water from the well using our coopered buckets and a yoke! Clothes are hung on the line to dry using wonderful old wooden pegs and we demonstrate the different irons in use.