

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

WHAT ABOUT HER STORY?

KS1 History – Our Homes

Understanding domestic work in the past and present

This lesson will highlight to children all the work that needs to be done inside the home. They will look at old and new domestic appliances. They will consider the amount of time women had to work in the home in the past, compared to people today. Using their existing knowledge, the children will sort domestic jobs in order of importance and discuss their choices. They will also learn what ‘the double shift’ means and how it affects their parents and carers.

Learning Objectives:

To be able to answer questions about household objects used by women a long time ago
To recognise that domestic work is important

Success Criteria:

Children should be able to:
Talk about aspects of home life long ago
Value the importance of domestic work

KS1 National Curriculum Links:

History – 1b: use common words and phrases relating to the passing of time [for example, before, after, a long time ago, past], 2b: identify differences between ways of life at different times, 4b: to ask and answer questions about the past, Programme of Study – Our Homes.

Citizenship – 4f: to know that they belong to various groups and communities, such as family and school.

Resources:

Powerpoint display
Worksheets

Introduction:

Show the children a variety of pictures of homes from the past to the present. Explain to them that, even though homes have changed to look at, many of the jobs that need doing inside them, i.e. domestic work, have stayed the same.

Ask the children to list in words or in writing all the jobs that need doing around their homes. Ask them to share their ideas for a class list.

Teacher Led Activity:

Explain to the children that in the modern world there are lots of appliances to help with domestic work, such as washing machines and vacuum cleaners. Ask them whether they think these things existed in the past. Then ask the children to think of questions they would ask a person from 100 years ago about the jobs they did in the home. Create a class list of questions.

Development:

Paired work:

Show the children pictures of old and modern domestic appliances. Ask them to match them up.

Using the images, ask the children if they can answer any of the questions they had.

Next, ask the children whether they think it was men or women who had to do most of the domestic work in the past. Can they think of reasons why? Ask the children to focus on one or two images from the past, and ask them to guess how long women had to spend on each job. Do they feel lucky not to have to do a job from the past?!

Independent work:

Ask the children to use ladder charts to cut and stick the names and pictures of old and new domestic jobs onto them, in order to show the jobs they think are the most and least important. Ask them to stick the most important jobs at the top.

Differentiation:

G&T – Ask the children to write on their charts the reasons why they think each domestic job is more or less important.

SEN – Ask the children to work in a group to fill in a chart, with adult help.

Plenary:

Share with the children some of the ladder charts and discuss the choices different children made about ordering the jobs. Is there anyone who disagrees with someone's choices?

Then introduce the concept of the 'double shift' to the children by showing them a picture of Victorian women working in a mill 100 years ago. Explain to the children that the

women would have had to work six days a week with a day of rest at home on Sunday. Ask them whether they think women did get a day of rest?!

Ask the children if they have mothers who have a double shift, i.e. they work outside **and** inside the home. Ask them to think of ways they could help their mothers. Also, ask the children if they have fathers who do lots of domestic work. Do they think it is a good thing that men and women share the work?

Finally ask the children if the sentence: 'My mum/dad doesn't have a job' is true. Ask the children to think of all the things their parents do for them at home. Can they think of ways they could value people who work inside the home more?

Homework / Extension:

Ask the children to keep a diary of all the jobs that get done around their houses at the weekend. How many jobs do they end up recording?

Possible Follow-Up Lesson:

Ask the children to design a machine to make house work easier for their parents, or visit a museum where the children can hold domestic appliances from the past.