



Journeyman Weavers Story - Lesson Plan

Class	Key Stage	Time	Curriculum Areas
Year 3-6	2	60-75 min	History (local / topic after 1066) and life in the past Technology – making a dress fabric design, weaving Citizenship – British Values

Learning Objectives:

- To understand who the Huguenots were and where they came from
- To understand some skills of the Huguenots and how they lived
- To identify differences in the lives of rich and poor people in the past
- To learn about the process of clothes' manufacture from design to creation

There are links in the lesson plan mainly to the Huguenots of Spitalfields website. Pages from there can be downloaded or used as fact sheets or reading material as part of the lesson too.

Teacher / student activities	Timings	Resources	Notes
<p><i>1. Introduction – Mrs Fanshawe's Dress:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worn by Mrs Fanshawe, daughter of the Mayor of London in 1753 • Skirt is 2180mm (or 2.18m wide – you could get the children to write out / say the different measurements). Get a couple of children to take the tape measure to show the class how wide the dress would be, • Skirt is made of a single piece of silk material made in Spitalfields • It has 14 different colours and silver thread entwined. • The dress cost 1 year's salary (average year's wages) • Conserved at the Museum of London <p>Ask questions like: Would it be comfortable to wear? How expensive is it? Would you wear something like that?</p>	0.00-0.10	<p>Slide 2</p> <p>Material Tape measure</p> <p>There is more on Mrs Fanshawe's Dress here.</p>	

<p>Today we are going to find out how the dress was made and who made it</p>			
<p><i>The Huguenots</i></p> <p>Explain that the Huguenots were French Protestants who came to England in the 17th century to escape persecution from the French Catholics. They were Britain's first refugees, and many settled in Spitalfields in Tower Hamlets London.</p> <p>They were very skilled and talented people including bankers, artists, architects and weavers.</p> <p>Huguenot silk weavers brought new skills to England and settled in Canterbury, Norwich and Spitalfields in London. English weavers resented the Huguenots at first as they feared the loss of their business caused by the new arrivals. However, the Huguenots brought with them the new fashions from France and the skills with which to create sophisticated ball gowns and beautiful fabric.</p>	0.10-0.15	Slide 3	
<p><i>2. The Silk Trade</i></p> <p>Silk is a natural fabric as the fibres come from living things.</p> <p>For more on the silkworm see the website.</p> <p>Activity: As a group, discuss how different fabrics have different properties, using examples such as silk, wool, leather etc. Get a range of different fabrics or ask children to bring in examples. As a group, look at and discuss the fabrics.</p>	0.15-0.25	Slides 4 Different fabrics	
<p><i>The Silk Weavers' Story</i></p> <p>Silk weavers in the eighteenth century were based in Spitalfields, London. These weavers were the first refugees in England. Let's find out what they did.</p> <p>A draw boy – to operate a draw loom, the weaver needed the assistance of a boy to pull the cords controlling the pattern harness</p>	0.25-0.30	Slide 5 More on silk weaving and different roles here .	

<p>Throwsters – had to de-gum and withdraw silk from cocoons to make the silk thread for use in weaving.</p> <p>Winders – made sure bobbins were filled with thread and placed in a bobbin rack in readiness for the warper.</p> <p>Dyers – produced bright stable (i.e. ones that did not change colour) dyes.</p>			
<p><i>Spitalfields – Rich and Poor</i></p> <p>Explain where Spitalfields is – map of London, east London. Mainly working class, industry (houses), between the City and the Port of London.</p> <p>Over 20,000 Huguenots came to live and work in Spitalfields. That’s more people than could fit in the O2 arena!</p> <p>Silk weaving was the main occupation for these people and it made the Master Weavers and owners of the houses, workshops or small factories very wealthy.</p> <p>Whereas journeymen weavers made the silk in their own homes and worked very hard. They were often poor and lived in crowded houses with their extended family. Ask children what is an extended family.</p> <p>Differences between the groups at extremes of the silk industry. Master Weavers in charge, merchants, bought and sold silk and silk products.</p>	0.30-0.35	<p>Slides 6-8</p> <p>There is more on the towns Huguenots settled in here</p> <p>Could use map of London to locate Spitalfields and see where it is. Or use the Tube Map.</p>	
<p><i>3. Making Mrs Fanshawe’s Dress</i></p> <p>Explain that even wealthy ladies had very few dresses</p> <p>Have the children seen Cinderella or other programmes with these dresses? Beauty and The Beast etc.</p> <p>Can ask: Why is silk a luxury product? What does that mean?</p>	0.35-0.40	Slides 9 - 13	

<p>The process of making a dress like Mrs Fanshawe's went like this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master Weaver shows the customer (Mrs Fanshawe) the design of the material and style on the doll. • Mrs Fanshawe says 'Yes!' • Master Weaver employs a Journeyman Weaver to make the silk. He weighs the silk and pays by the day. • The Journeyman Weaver weaves the fabric for the dress every day for 4 months. • The completed silk is given to the Master Weaver, who weighs it to check it is the same amount. • The Master Weaver employs a seamstress (dressmaker) to sew the dress in 1 week. <p>Get the children to act out this process in groups of 2-3, taking different roles. Use slide 13 to remind them of the story.</p>	0.40 – 0.50	Slides 9 - 13	
<p><i>4. Life as a Journeyman Weaver</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The name Journeyman comes from Journee (Day in French) as they were paid by the day. • It was a skilled job • No school but they would do apprenticeships. • Work and live with Family • Food is simple and always the same. • Meat is expensive <p>House</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staircase by front door to keep dirt away • Large windows for natural light (important in weaving) • Candles and fires rarely used as they would create soot and damage the silk. 	0.50 – 1 hour	Slides 14 - 17	
<p><i>Journeyman Weaver's House</i></p> <p>There are still some houses that belonged to both Master Weavers and Journey man weavers in Spitalfields. Many Journeymen weavers' houses have been under threat of demolition.</p>		Slide 18	

<p>Could ask why should we save these houses? How can we re-use them? History in community etc.</p>			
<p><i>Sum Up</i></p> <p>The Huguenots designed many fantastic silk fabrics that were used to make very expensive clothing worn by very important and wealthy people in society.</p> <p>Could finish with an activity to design a pattern weave or do paper plate weaving (e.g. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p1kI3CkkYs0)</p>	<p>1 hour – 90 minutes dependant on art activity</p>	<p>Slide 19</p>	