

Stepping backwards & looking forwards

To think about how a place changes over time by looking at it now then thinking back 100 years before looking to the future. The idea is that children begin to think about how they can be part of this change by being engaged in conservation.

Resources

- Note book and pencil for each child

Activity

Before the visit the class could look at the Clara Vale Conservation Group website (cvcg.org.uk) to find out how the nature reserve was established after the Clara Vale pit was closed.

Have a walk around the reserve looking for signs of the past. Then stand in a line in a row and be completely silent. Have a good look around without speaking.

After one minute, the teacher will give an instruction to take one step back. This represents going into the past. At this point the children may close their eyes to help them imagine the past. Using note pads, children will write a brief story of what they would have been standing on 100 years ago. After 5 minutes they will return to the present day by stepping forward to their original space.

The next instruction will be to take one step forward which will represent wandering into the future. Now the children can use their notebooks again to write a short story imagining what they will be standing on in 100 years' time,

Later spend sometime in the Village Hall looking at photographs of the village and pit buildings and the miners' banner. Or take a look at the plaque in the Centenary garden which refers to the miners and their families who built this village.

Follow up

- Back at school each pupil can read their stories to each other. Members of the local community, perhaps an older member of a child's family could be invited to talk about their memories of living or working in the village. The class could interview these people and perhaps make a film of the interview. This, along with the children's stories could be the basis for an assembly for the rest of the school.



Visit cvcg.org.uk for more activity sheets and information about our nature reserve

