

#ConnectMe

Every place has got a story. What's yours?



A Place-Based Education Resource Designed to allow you
to unlock the learning potential of your very own place.

An Interwoven Productions CIC resource

FOR AGES 7-12

Interwoven Productions CIC

www.interwovenproductions.com

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Every street, every house, flat or maisonette, every tree, stream or park – ANY place at all – has a story to tell.
You've just got to know how to SEE and we're going to guide you through. It's as easy as 1 – 2 – 3!!

This is Spiggot

He's a bloodhound. He searches out clues and carefully follows trails uncovering secrets and hidden histories as he goes. Spiggot is here to guide you.



This is Minxie

She's a Siamese cat. She knows all the short cuts and how to look at the world with Cool Cat eyes. She'll let you know if there's an easier way to go.

Together they're going to take you through 3 simple, fun steps to uncovering the truth of your very own place – wherever you are!

THREE SIMPLE STEPS TO TELLING THE STORY OF YOUR PLACE

1
Reveal the
truth

2
Get
creative

3
Share and connect
Every place has got a story so
let's use those stories to connect
with each other

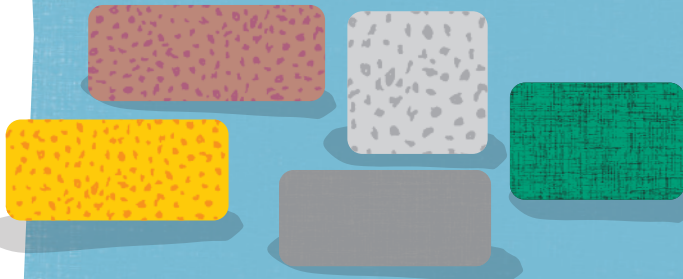
REVEAL THE TRUTH



Spiggot says the first thing you need to do is LOOK!
Choose a window that shows you the most things.
Look out and then answer these simple questions:-

Question

What colour are the buildings that you can see?
Which colour do you see the most?
Or, if there are no buildings, what colour is the soil?



Red brick?
Yellow brick? Stone?
Grey concrete?
Something else?

Did you know

For the most part builders will use local clay for bricks and stone for building. That is, they will find the nearest building materials so that they don't have to transport them too far. So the colour that you see mostly will be colour of the earth in your place. Iron oxidises to a red or yellow colour so often bricks or stone are reddish or yellowish. Modern building materials like concrete are more likely to be grey. Often though buildings are plastered to a flat finish and then painted. This can be in any colour! What colours do you see?

Question

How much sky can you see? How does it look today? Is that how it usually looks? Cloudy? Blue? Grey? Can't see the sky at all?



Did you know

Some of our cities suffer from poor air quality making the sky look hazy. In other places the buildings are so tall that it's hard to get a view of the sky at all. What does the sky look like in your place? Do you think that is how the sky looked in the past?

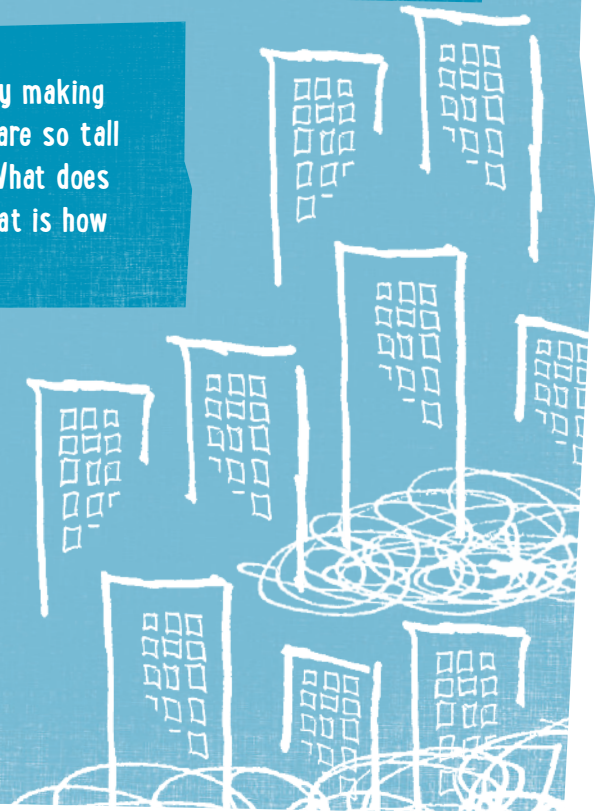
Question

Can you see water of any kind?
A sea, river, stream, or even water that is being managed, like a pipe, a viaduct or a water tower?



Did you know

That where there is water, there is usually a story to be told. It is so essential to us that people have found all sorts of ways of managing water and using it not only in our houses, but to provide power and to help us transport goods and people.



REVEAL THE TRUTH

Minxie says – Hold on! Time to stop and think about this. What do those things add up to? Earth? Water? Sky? Why do they matter?



Well, they're the essential ingredients of Place. They're the things we ALL have in common. It doesn't matter if you're in New York, Jaipur, Beijing or Scarborough. We all have a place on this one shared earth, this one planet surface and these are the things that connect us. The ground beneath our feet, the sky above our heads and the waters that flow through. We're all in this together!



Spiggot says – OK, that's all good work so far but now we need to get to the clues that will tell the story of each place in more detail. We need to ask some more searching questions.



How old is the building you live in?
How did people live when it was first built?

First of all let's try looking it up online.

The National Library of Scotland map site
www.maps.nls.uk/os/6inch-england-and-wales/

Here's a great resource if you live in Britain. Just by putting your street name in, you can see exactly what was right there 100 years or 50 years ago!

Select the second option "As a seamless zoomable overlay layer (1888-1913) on modern Google and OS maps". This lets you zoom in and out until you're sure that you are looking exactly at where you live.



Note:

Under "Select a category" you can choose different old maps from different ages. If you select "Great Britain" you'll see lots of Ordnance Survey (OS) maps of different ages. Type in your street name and then try these to pinpoint when your home first appears!

OS Six Inch, 1888-1913
OS 24 Inch, 1892-1914
OS 1:25000, 1937-1961
OS 1:10560, 1949-1969



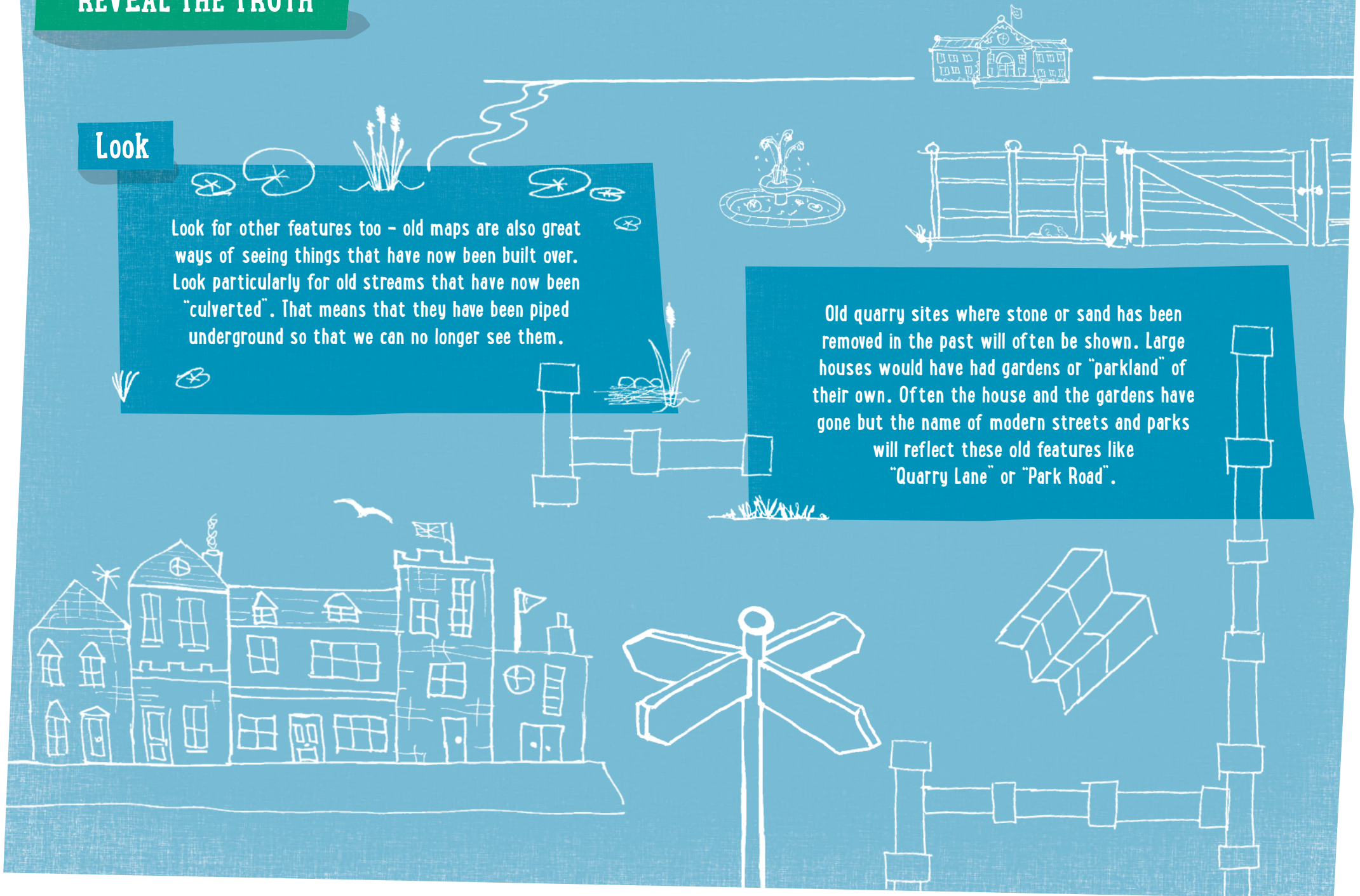
If you switch to "England and Wales" under Select a Category, you'll find a different set of maps which might give you more information but it is the OS maps that will be most useful in pin-pointing exactly where your home is and what was there before.

REVEAL THE TRUTH

Look

Look for other features too – old maps are also great ways of seeing things that have now been built over. Look particularly for old streams that have now been “culverted”. That means that they have been piped underground so that we can no longer see them.

Old quarry sites where stone or sand has been removed in the past will often be shown. Large houses would have had gardens or “parkland” of their own. Often the house and the gardens have gone but the name of modern streets and parks will reflect these old features like “Quarry Lane” or “Park Road”.



REVEAL THE TRUTH

Minxie says - That's interesting Spiggot but I know a much quicker way of finding things out - why not ask someone who knows?



Minxie is right. This is another great way of finding out. Are there adults who live with you who might know more?

Ask them:-

Do they have any documents that might help?
Have they been told any information about the date of your home?
Even if they're not completely sure, make a note of it?



Did you know?

Local history detectives often have to work with incomplete information so they double check sources by comparing them. When they match up and agree with each other, that gives them more confidence that they're on the right track!
How does the information you learned from the National Library of Scotland Map Site compare to what you've learned from the adults you live with?

There's a great video here giving advice on how to interview people - just as professional historians do -

www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks2-how-to-interview-people/zrhgwtv



GET CREATIVE

Once you have a date for when your home was first built (even if approximate) you can begin to explore how the people who first occupied it.

OK, let's make a story for them:-

Minxie says - I know a fun way to do this! Let's imagine someone, just like you, living in your home at the time that it was built. Make them the same age as you.



Firstly, give them a name.

Then, look out of your window again but this time pretend that you are your character and that the date is when your home was first built. Begin to build a story for your character by creating answers to these questions (it's OK to make these answers up).

- A** Why are you looking out of your window?
What are you looking for? Are you waiting for someone?
Watching something in particular?
- B** What can you see? How much of your area was already built?
How much was open fields?
Look out and try to imagine what you would see back then.
- C** Decide how you, as your character, are feeling.
Are you excited? Sad? Afraid? Hungry? Tired? Happy?
- D** What is your character's dearest wish?
What would make your character ecstatically happy?
- E** What are you (as your character) fearful of?

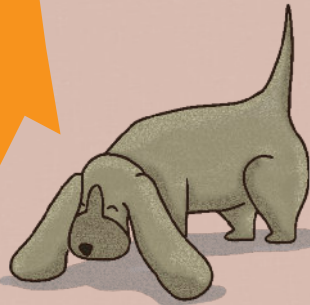


Once you have the answers to those questions written down, start to build a story for your character. Fix it in the time when your home was first built and imagine what life was like for your character. If they're happy, let your story tell us why. Do they gain their dearest wish?



GET CREATIVE

Spiggot says - Oh Minxie, it's great to make up stories based on the history of a place but how can the children know what they would expect to see on their street when their home was first built? Time to do a little fact checking...



Minxie says - thank you Spiggot. Now we have a character and we know that they are walking along your street (or lane, or wherever your home is) just after it was built. We know the colour of your local soil, we can imagine how the sky would have looked without air pollution and modern buildings and we can re-imagine any water, such as rivers and streams before they were concreted in or piped underground. So, now it's time to put on your Histori-Goggles, says Minxie!



Try

Try using the BBC Bitesize site www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ks2-history/zfbwhbk again.

They have some great videos on life in different periods:-

Victorian Britain (1837-1901)

Edwardian Britain (1901-1910)

World War I (1914-1918) and

World War II (1939-1945)



If your home was built after 1945 then Asking Someone Who Knows using the interview techniques you've learned could well be your best option.

This should give you more information to help you build your stories.



Look

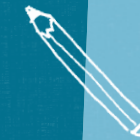
This means go and look out of that window again and imagine that you are the character that you are writing about. What exactly can you see from that view? If there are very modern buildings in your way, that you know were built after yours, then try to imagine the view without them.



GET CREATIVE

Look

Now, look down at yourself, what kind of clothes would your character be wearing? Check out the BBC Bitesize videos again or ask your adults if they have some photographs for inspiration and then design yourself an outfit that would fit in that time.



Draw your outfit and let us see it by asking the adults you live with to share on the [Local History Detectives facebook Group](#)
[#ConnectMe - Ages 7-12 - Local History](#)

Now, you have your character, dressed in the right outfit for their time, standing in your home just after it was built. You know what they can see from the window, how they feel, where they're going and what they want.

The rest of the story is up to you!

What happens to them?
What obstacles do they meet?
How do they overcome them?

Create away -
we can't wait to see your stories!



SHARE AND CONNECT

It's easy to share but you'll need to work with an adult who is willing to take a picture of your drawings and your stories and then post them here:-

www.facebook.com/groups/1087511401632357/

Once posted you can have fun comparing your place to others.
Seeing who else lives in a home like yours.



Supported by



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