



A Day in the Life of William and Alice

Teachers' Guidance Notes

Learning Objectives

- To investigate the lives of two very different children living near Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal
- To compare the lives of a rich and a poor child in the Victorian period
- To develop investigation, research and fact gathering skills using varied sources

Resources

- [Life on the English Waterways](#)
- [Canal narrowboat boatman's cabin life](#)
- [Canal Folk art](#)
- [Wealthy Victorian Family](#)
- [Victorian Home Life](#)

Activity Instructions

Learners will use varied resources and their own research to compare the lives of two real Victorian children from Froncysyllte. They will focus on Alice Graesser, daughter of a rich industrialist living in Argoed Hall and William Davies, son of a boatman who worked with his father on a canal boat. Learners will be able to use material from the 'Comparing the lives of rich and poor' activity to discover facts about them both and then build on these to develop a day in the life of each child, write creative writing pieces and take part in role play activities.



Starter Activity Ideas:



Investigate: Use the 'Comparing the Lives of Rich and Poor' activity to find out about Alice Graesser and William Davies. What have you discovered? How old were they in 1881? Where did they live? What did they do?

Discuss: What interested you most about Alice and William? (e.g. their jobs, school, their houses).

Brief for Learners:



Do your own research about the lives of Victorian children, to build up a picture of what day to day life for William and Alice may have been like, using the suggested resources and finding others yourself.

Imagine that you are William Davies or Alice Graesser.

Write: Describe a day in the life of your chosen character as if you were writing a diary entry, using the information you have discovered.

- What did you do?
- How did you feel?
- Who did you see?

Perform: Use the information you have researched to create role-plays around the two children.

Think about:

- What would they say to each other?
- What would they ask each other?
- Who was in their family?
- Who lived in their house?
- Describe where they lived.
- What jobs did their parents have?
- What did they do?
- What is the same/different about their lives?

Further Activity Ideas:



How do William and Alice's lives compare to yours?

Investigate Cefn Mawr and Froncysyllte during the Victorian period. What were they like?

Create artwork for your home: Create a piece of canal art for your narrowboat or a painting of the Welsh countryside for your Hall.