

The Countryside Code & Traditional Crafts Lesson Plan

Lesson	Our Countryside – Past & Present	50-Minute Lesson
Learning Outcomes	- To understand the countryside code - Be able to follow the countryside code when out and about in the countryside - To learn about traditional countryside crafts from the time of John Clare	
Resources Needed	- Countryside Code Video - Pen Paper - Traditional Countryside Crafts Booklet - Materials for your chosen craft	

Adaption maybe required for student with any additional needs

	Outline	Resources
Introduction 5mins	Has anyone heard of the countryside code? Any ideas on what you think this might mean? – Class Discussion	
Activity 1 – What is the countryside Code 10mins	Watch the Countryside Code, Arkman Animation - The Countryside Code (2004, UK) - Bing video Write down the 10 points of the country code you saw in the clip. Watch the clip again together and pause it at each message and see if all of them had been found – - Start – Respect, Protect, Enjoy 12sec – Leave gates as you find them - Keep noise to a minimum 21sec - Clean up after dogs - Do not litter - Keep to footpaths 32sec - Keep dogs on a lead 39sec - Watch out for and follow signs 48sec - Be prepared - Plan your journey - End - Respect, Protect, Enjoy – repeated How many did the students find? A quote to remember – “Take nothing but photographs, leave nothing but footprints” Why is this important when visiting a farm? – Class Discussion <i>Additional resources and information - The Countryside Code - National Trails</i>	Pen Paper
Extension Task	Using this understanding of the Countryside Code and further information from the website - the students should create a poster to alert others to what the countryside code is and how to follow it.	
Activity 2 – Countryside Traditions 30mins	There are lots of things associated with the beauty of the countryside. However, in the past these have been celebrated through the creation of essential items as well as decorative crafts, which today we have almost forgotten about. In 2017, a red list was produced by the Heritage Crafts Association, ranking traditional crafts by the likelihood of whether they would survive to the next generation. Here are some different craft ideas to use with the class and history behind them –	Traditional Countryside Crafts Booklet Materials for your chosen craft

	Basket 'Willow' Weaving – Basketry is widely believed to be the oldest craft in the world, dating back ten to twelve thousand years and is found in some form in almost every part of the world. Baskets were an everyday life essential throughout the centuries, used for containing, storing and transporting items, as well as for fishing. They were of such necessity that each village or district had local basketmaking artisans. The Romans often used willow for the craft of basketmaking. Britain was renowned for skilled basketry, and large quantities were exported to Rome. The Industrial Revolution heavily influenced willow production and basketmaking, creating a higher demand of willow. This led to the plantation of over 3,000 acres in the early 1800s. Harvesting was arduous work, and once harvested, it needed to be stripped by hand until 'the willow stripping machine' was first used in the interwar years. The introduction of plastic in the 1950s led to a decline in the willow basket industry. Little has been altered in the craft of willow weaving and basket-making, since the Iron Age. Basket Weaving is placed on the Critically Endangered List Crafts classified as 'critically endangered' are those at serious risk of no longer being practised in the UK. Corn Dolls – The making of corn dolls goes back many thousands of years. It was a Pagan custom and evolved from the beliefs of the corn growing people who believed in the Corn Spirit. Traditionally made at harvest time from the last sheaf of corn, the Corn Spirit was believed to live or be reborn in the plaited straw ornament or corn doll. It was kept until the following spring to ensure a good harvest and was often kept in a place of honour at the harvest banqueting table. Corn Dolls are on the Endangered List Crafts classified as 'endangered' are those which currently have sufficient craftspeople to transmit the craft skills to the next generation, but for which there are serious concerns about their ongoing viability. Rope Making – Rope can be made from natural fibres (e.g. hemp, manila hemp, linen, cotton, coir, jute, straw, sisal etc.) or synthetic fibres (e.g. polypropylene, nylon, polyester, polyethylene, acrylic etc.). Historically, the type of fibre used depended on what was locally available. The earliest ropes were made by twisting and braiding lengths of plant fibre. The ancient Egyptians were the first to develop special tools to make ropes. From the thirteenth century in Western Europe, rope was constructed in ropewalks – very long buildings where strands the full length of the rope were spread out and then twisted together to form rope. In the UK, rope making was on an industrial scale but each community would also have had a local ropemaker, and most farms would have made their own rope. The materials were always more expensive than the labour. Rope Making is also on the Endangered List <i>Additional information and resources - Heritage Crafts Heritage Crafts</i>	
Plenary – 5mins	What other crafts or skills do you think might have existed in John Clare's time?	

