

Harvest Helpers

Duration: 2 hours approx. – max group size 30
National Curriculum – **Key Stage 1**
Available: September



The Visit Aims

- To introduce children to a wide range of common and less common fruit, vegetable and flower crops growing in the garden.
- To identify different parts of plants and discuss their function and use.
- To discuss which parts of a plant we eat from a variety of crop plants.
- To provide children with the experience of harvesting produce from the garden and to follow its route from 'plot' to 'point of sale'.
- To promote communication skills via 'role-play' in a pretend 'shop'.
- To give children first hand experience of investigating the variety of plant seeds and pods, in the context of the season of Autumn.

The Visit

Your group will be met by a guide in the role of Assistant Gardener 'Dib' at the terrace steps where the session will begin. He explains that late Summer and Autumn are the busy harvesting times and invites the children to help him in this work. They will be joined by Head Gardener 'Grub' and 'Mr. Marrow' who presents 'Grub' with a list of produce to stock his *Garden Shop*. All children will have an opportunity to explore 'parts of a plant' – roots, stem, leaves and flower head. They will also investigate a variety of plant seeds, opening the pods to reveal the seeds inside.

The children assist 'Grub' and 'Dib' in the garden collecting and harvesting produce. 'Grub' explains the historic relationship between the Walled Garden and the relevance of commercial growers and farms. With all the children participating, crops are picked, eg pears, apples, flowers, herbs, pods, root and leaf vegetables etc. Discussions are based around which parts of the plants are eaten, or which plants are used as decoration.

The harvested produce is then 'delivered' by the children to 'Marrows Garden Shop' and the shelves are stacked ready for the children in their role as customers to buy the freshly harvested foodstuffs. Children are given roles as garden assistants, shop staff and customers.

The shopping exercise reinforces the variety of plant produce harvested by the children and helps them to identify different crops. They act out the role of consumers and take samples of the produce back to school with them.

Please bring a supply of carrier bags to take your 'shopping' back to school.

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Background Information

Croxteth Hall was once the home of the Earls of Sefton. After the death of the last Earl in 1972 the Hall and its surrounding estate was bequeathed to the City of Liverpool. The 2 acre (0.8 hectares) Walled Garden at Croxteth Hall functioned as a large kitchen garden – rather like a large allotment! The Head Gardener with his under-gardeners was charged with the task of producing an all year round supply of fruit and vegetables for the kitchens of Croxteth Hall.

Visit Resources

- Seed stocks
- Cut flowers
- Fruit and vegetables

Visit Notes

Supervision - For every visit it is necessary to have sufficient adults with your group to comply with your LEA outdoor guidelines.

Risk Assessments - are available for all guided visits.

Timing - Visits last for approx 1.5 - 2.00 hours. Please refer to the notes provided for your visit times and starting points. We suggest you arrive 15 minutes in advance of your visit to allow for parking, payment, toilet trips, etc

Toilets - are in the Café courtyard.

Parking - The main entrance and coach park is off Muirhead Avenue East. The coach park is about 300m from the Hall. You may be advised to park near the Hall only with prior arrangement.

Charge - £5.00 per child, (minimum charge £125.00 per group).

Payment - Please make payment on the day of the visit at the gift shop at the front of the Hall. Please make payment to **Croxteth Hall & Country Park**.

Clothing - Please ensure students wear outdoor clothing and footwear appropriate for the weather and time of year.

Further Information about this and other visits are detailed on our 'Learning Opportunities website www.croxteth.co.uk/education

Customer Feedback Forms - please fill in and return our feedback survey sheets- we welcome evaluation and constructive comments on your visit.

Liverpool City Council Parks & Greenspaces

**Ranger Interpretation Service, Croxteth Hall & Country Park, Croxteth Hall Lane,
Liverpool L12 OHB**

Tel 0151 233 6910 (Gen Office), 0151 233 6912/6915 (RIS Team) fax 0151 233 6906