

Spring Awake!



Duration: 1 ¾ hours approx. – max group size 30
National Curriculum – **Key Stage 1**
Available: April - May

The Visit Aims

- Through this drama based visit, to provide the children with a basis to examine and interpret the environment through a variety of perspectives, (aesthetic, physical, biological).
- To provide children with a seasonal celebration of Spring; marking the changes in behaviour of plants and animals, noting the important aspects of the natural world using pictures, words, song and actions.
- To develop children's natural curiosity about the environment and to create a narrative based adventure in which to stimulate imaginative learning.
- To provide children with an insight into how plants grow from seed and how animals live in the environment with some dramatic hidden surprises.

The Visit

The session will commence at the terrace steps (opposite the walled garden entrance). Your group will be met by assistant gardener 'Dib'. The group will then be joined by Head Gardener 'Grub' who takes everybody off into one of the Hall rooms in search of 'Spring' where they find a room with Spring's 'wakening things' and a display of pictures and words showing the different aspects of the season of Spring.

'Mr. Grub' explains the display to the group and discovers a picture with missing images – 'things' that 'Spring' has forgotten to 'wake up'. The children are asked to wake up 'Spring' by shouting 'Spring Awake!' so that the unfinished picture can be completed and so allow Summer to follow on. A colourful 'Spring' appears and gathers up all the 'Spring things' needed to complete the task.

The group then follow 'Spring' to the Walled Garden where they help to wake things up (teachers can help too). They also encounter some unexpected awakenings! Singing songs, waving ribbons, carrying banners and marching around the garden all the missing images are collected and the group return to 'Spring's' room.

The collected images are then placed onto the picture to complete their work and they give a last farewell to 'Spring'. At this point each group is rewarded with a packet of seeds that they can take away and plant.

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Background Information

Croxteth Hall was the former home of the Earls of Sefton. After the death of the last Earl in 1972 the Hall and its estate was bequeathed to the City of Liverpool. The Country Park now consists of 215 hectares of gardens, open parkland, pasture and woodland. The Victorian Walled Garden was built around the middle of the 19th century (circa 1850) and occupies two acres of ground (0.8 hectares). The purpose of the garden was to produce an abundant supply of fresh fruit, vegetables and cut flowers for the Hall and the Head Gardener was expected to produce crops all the year round.

Visit Resources

- A packet of Spring's special 'wakey-wakey' seeds.

Visit Notes

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

Risk Assessments - are available for all guided visits.

Timing - Most visits last for approx 1.5 hours. Please refer to the notes provided for your visit for 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