

Paddlesteamers, Postcards and Holidays Past

Subjects covered in tasks as included or suggested

GENERAL

What makes a “beautiful” landscape? Sources of inspiration. Finding inspiration in the landscape poems of Romantic writers. Lifestyle choices in relocating. Wildlife as a feature of scenic beauty. Using imagination. Romance and adventure in tourism. Romanticism in all the arts, exaggeration for effect. Landscape as a source of inspiration. Zeitgeist and the public imagination. Human landscape features and their contribution to scenery. The romantic appeal of archaeological sites. Rocks and wildlife as features of scenic beauty. The power of nature and its effect on scenic beauty and landscape inspiration. Romantic landscapes and the Romantic movement. The therapeutic effects of landscape. Drawing inspiration from looking and listening. The universal need to express emotions in some way. Diversification, farming to fiction. Considering fact, fiction, fantasy, falsehoods, misrepresentations, artistic licence. Dramatic landscapes. The power of nature. Rugged coastlines.

1 INFORMATION

Influential incomers (Newnes, Halliday, Tamlyn, Dr Clark, Maharajah of Jodphur, Lake).
Tourism in Lynton today.
Advertising today of hotel wars.
A carbon-neutral railway.
Tourist income from Lorna Doone.
Adapting landscape features for a purpose: smuggling.

2 SKILLS

Sorting information. Inferring information, thinking it right through. Inferring locations from pictures. Examining the evidence (Giant's Causeway vs Valley of Rocks). Tracking down locations. Staying safe in the outdoors. Using your imagination. Observing the landscape and immediate environment using all senses, noting changes.

3 DEBATE

Holiday homes.
Lifestyle choices in relocating.
Why geologists don't always agree. New theories and controversy.
Maintaining feral herds: the goat-culling controversy.
1960s caravan site in the Valley of Rocks.
The extra demand on resources in the tourist season.
Human rights and civil war.
Countryside sports debate in re economy vs ethics.
The impact of the Butlins holiday camp on Minehead.
Considering isolation and unchanging lifestyles: good and bad, and as a tourist draw.
Debating diversification vs opportunism in tourism.

4 ENQUIRY

Tourist facilities today (eg tearoom, toilets, Tramper).
SSSIs.
Advertising in Victorian times and now.
Tourist goods in shops then and now.
Year-round living in a tourist resort.
Listing landscape features for a picnic spot.
Imagining how a Victorian long-distance walker would have found food, drink, overnight shelter.

HISTORY

INTRODUCTION

HOW IT WAS

Historical self-sufficiency of the twin villages. Fishing in the local economy. Minehead as medieval port. Dunster medieval village.

FACTORS FOR CHANGE

Sea bathing resorts. Esplanades and exercise.

RESPONDING

Diversifying post Industrial Revolution. Litson & Colley, wool merchant/maltster to hotelier. Farm kitchen to inn. Halliday as a key developer. Victorian development of Lynmouth. Hotels. Holiday cottages. Minehead as fashionable seaside resort.

TECHNOLOGY

Old roads. Victorian carriageway. 19th-century steamers. Stagecoaches. Railways. Cliff railway. Pier and esplanade. 19th-century industry in Watersmeet. Minehead's railway.

EVOLVING

Royal visitors. excursions. Fishing as a pastime. Maharajah of Jodhpur and Rajah Halnut Singh, the Empire. Country sports, golf, polo. Edwardian tearoom. The Lynrock mineral water factory. Adapting fishing to tourism. Fishing boats used for excursions. Refreshments for day trippers. Ice cream parlours. Amusement arcades. 1960s Butlins.

1 INFORMATION

PREHISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY

Ancient field systems in the Valley of Rocks. Archaeology of recent history, plus Iron Age hillfort. Roman fortlets in OS. Finding traces of a medieval settlement.

MEDIEVAL

Herds of goats and Exmoor ponies from Domesday onwards. Glastonbury as an island. Looking for packhorse routes in OS. Historical names on maps.

POST-MEDIEVAL

Age of Enlightenment. Romanticism. Fossils and Mary Anning. A real "witch". Duty Point Tower as a lookout for customs men. The Victorian thirst for knowledge, exploring the landscape for data. Pteridomania as a Victorian obsession. Smuggling. Thomas Hardy's tale about Bonaparte in 1804: Similarities between rural Dorset and Exmoor in Hardy's day.

2 SKILLS

Dating a picture/postcard from the evidence. Interpreting historical evidence on the foreshore. Finding archaeological features in the modern OS map. The importance/difficulty of establishing the facts in oral history. Traditions and fabrications. The real Doune brothers – verifying information, validating a story. Researching online, checking quality of information.

3 DEBATE

Escaping from the city in Romantic and modern times.

4 ENQUIRY

Illnesses and their treatment in Victorian times. Tourist campsite in the 1960s and 20th-century family holidays. Early archaeology/antiquarianism. The history of map-making. The worth of money then and now. Exploration expeditions in the history of science. Exmoor's medieval villages. Bringing the mail. Fire brigades. Sourcing building materials in Victorian times. Strategic outlooks: choosing a site. Ancient woodland. Geology history. Living memory.

GEOGRAPHY

INTRODUCTION

Development from isolated fishing creek to crowded tourist resort. Still isolated out of season. Defining "remote". Mapping tourists' home towns.

1 TRANSPORT LINKS

Accessibility, transport links. Ancient tracks. Stagecoaches, stagecoach routes. Railways. Excursion destinations. Rail routes beyond SW England. 20Th-century travel links.

2 GEOMORPHOLOGY & GEOLOGY

Coastal terrain. Changes in the landscape and their causes. Rock formations. Fanciful 19th-century geological guesswork. Geomorphology, Valley of Rocks in the Ice Age: theories. Freeze-thaw and scree. Fossils. Ice Age geomorphology. Confluence of rivers. The results of rainfall. Debris in rivers in spate, river erosion. Where springs rise, finding them in OS, the minerals they might contain. Natural changes in the landscape (trees growing). Geomorphology, coastal erosion: rock arches, coves, bays, headlands. Storm damage. Coastal woodlands. Coastal waterfalls. Geology history. Fossils and what they tell us about the age of rocks. Hollow Brook and the Old Red/Devonian boundary. Tectonic plates, orogenies: the evidence in the landscape.

3 MAPPING

OS map: contours and reading the shape of the landscape. Railway gradients. Road gradients. Plotting railway routes on the map, inferring potential problems. Mapping cross-country journeys. Mapping steamer routes. Journey comparisons. OS maps and locality character comparisons: "Little Switzerland". Identifying beauty spots and finding inspiration in OS maps. Footpaths, bridleways and long-distance walking routes in OS. Examining the evidence and inferring the past on the OS map. Exploring the landscape with a purpose. Modern surveying. The shape of the landscape, reading it on the map. Tracing rivers and tributaries from their sources in OS. Encroachment of the sea, building on flood plains, sea levels, Somerset Levels. International focus on monitoring strategic sea defences at Porlock. Reasons for the similarities and differences between Lynmouth and Minehead, in OS. Comparing Lynmouth and Heddon's Mouth on the map, explaining why Lynmouth developed and HM did not. Mapping Minehead railway route, reading the terrain. Webber's Post and its footpaths in OS. Local economy. Tracing river route in OS, reading the landscape, understanding how the water is funneled. Looking for packhorse routes in OS. Historical names on maps. Walking from London – route, itinerary. Finding a location using a grid reference. Identifying a location using a grid reference. Navigation work. Victorian carriageway route around hillside, in OS. Contours and spot heights. Reading landscape features in OS.

4 HUMANS IN THE LANDSCAPE

Archaeological features in the OS map. How people have shaped the landscape. The history of map-making. SW dairy farming. Minehead vs Lynmouth as a tourist resort – transport links, day trippers, demographic, entertainments. Why settlements are located where they are: the medieval village. The county boundary.

5 OTHER SKILLS

Locating place as described. Finding viewpoint from photo/postcard.

6 ENQUIRY

Bristol Channel tidal range. Weather. Exploration pre 19th century. Exploration expeditions in the history of science. The mild climate of the South West as exemplified by the tropical and sub-tropical plants brought in by Victorian horticulturalists. Similarities between rural Dorset and Exmoor in Hardy's day. Freeze-thaw and scree.

ENGLISH

INTRODUCTION

The power of inspiring writers. Using descriptive language to portray place and atmosphere. Observing changes in the landscape and the effect on scenery and atmosphere. Imagining others, eg in different weather, season. Ranges of expression, from hyperbole to understatement. Adjectives; expressing emotions.

FACTUAL WRITING

19th-century descriptions of Minehead facilities and scenery. Writing a single-sentence summary description of Minehead.

Formal letter to newspaper. Paraphrasing formal document. Writing a formal document seeking Parliamentary approval for a Victorian capital project.

Memorial inscriptions. Writing a brief biography based on memorial tablet info.

Finding landscape features from written descriptions.

Journals: Southey, Dorothy Wordsworth, William Hazlitt. Keeping a journal. Writing it in Southey/Dorothy Wordsworth style.

Writing Victorian-style text for stagecoach leaflet.

MYTHOLOGY & LEGENDS

Celtic mythology. Tales made up to explain natural features. Myths and legends, and how they get distorted in the telling. Tales of smugglers. Why romantic tales make people want to visit. Tales invented for a purpose (to keep people away from contraband).

MAGAZINES

Visitors' List. Producing a "Visitors List" magazine. Short stories: Sherlock Holmes. Thomas Hardy's 1804. "penny bloods". Tit-Bits, magazines. Writing a short story based on a postcard series; making notes and sketches; adding scenery and atmosphere post visit.

FICTION

The Gothic novel

Historical novels

Coleridge: Cain & Abel bible story reinvented using the atmosphere of the Valley of Rocks.

Lorna Doone.

POETRY

Comparing Poets Laureate.

Kipling's Smuggler's Song.

Shelley. Coleridge.

Coleridge "France: An Ode": describing the landscape and the liberty it represents. Wordsworth's poem as quoted by Halliday. The irony of the visitors drawn by the poem.

Writing a descriptive Watersmeet landscape poem. Imagining a smugglers' night landing, using the landscape atmosphere, making notes and sketches, writing a poem based on it.

SPOKEN ENGLISH

Adapting Coleridge's "Cain & Abel" text to a playscript, considering the effect of the staging.

Inventing and retelling a tale (Chinese whispers). Reciting Kipling's "Smuggler's Song".

MATHS

Railway gradients. Road gradients. Sterling currency. Journey comparisons. Costs involved in capital projects, keeping accounts. Fern mats at 2s 6d per square foot. 5cwt in metric. 200 or 300 railway workers – times taken. Estimating the cost of building a sports pavilion today. Distance, time taken, speed. GPS and trigonometry. Journey distances, times, speeds.

SCIENCE

GENERAL

Gradient of slope and time taken by object rolled down it: recording data.

Isaac Newton science. Victorians challenging traditional beliefs, collecting evidence. Exploration expeditions in the history of science. SSSIs and their role in attracting tourists. Planning a scientific investigation. Drawing conclusions from the evidence.

BIOLOGY

Darwin and evolution. Classifying plants and animals from scratch, observing the species. Fossils and Mary Anning. What fossils tell us about the age of rocks.

Victorian plant collectors. Fern nurseries. Exotic plant imports and their subsequent invasion of the countryside.

Whitebeams. Rare, endemic and endangered species. Watersmeet as a habitat. Tropical plants. Herbal knowledge. Victorian health and healing, conventional and alternative therapies today, the pharmaceutical industry.

PHYSICS

Railway gradients and mapping forces. Road gradients. Time/distance graphs.

Forces at work in the cliff railway. Sustainable energy. Lynmouth hydroelectric station – converting energy.

GPS and radio waves.

CHEMISTRY

The “health-giving” properties of seawater.

Witches as herbalists, alternative medicines.

Mineral springs, sea bathing. Testing samples of springwater for minerals.

COMPUTING

Researching online, checking quality of information. Researching information online, answering questions. Timetabling stagecoaches. Producing a web-based “Visitors List” app.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Transport link difficulties. Early tracks and turnpike roads. The functional design of packhorse bridges. Dealing with rough terrain, steep gradients up and down. Gradients and braking on horse-drawn vehicles. The development of road vehicles. Charabancs.

Lynnton & Barnstaple Railway: how the engineers overcame the terrain difficulties. Minehead railway and issues with terrain. Brunel's input.

Steamers. Parts of a ship. Bristol Channel tidal ranges. The need for a pier. Pier and esplanade.

Designing a pier with four landing stages and a luggage trolley.

Cliff railway and its water-powered braking systems.

Lynmouth hydroelectric station's revolutionary design.

Bathing machines.

Wardian cases, bell jars, cloches, cold frames, greenhouses.

Drawing a French navy ship from a dodgy description.

GPS technology.

Expressing a design idea in diagrams.

ART & DESIGN

Medieval architecture in Dunster. Architectural style of Victorian guest houses. Sourcing building materials in Victorian times. Little Switzerland. Victorian architecture, Gothic features. The fantasy architecture of Disney and Dr Suess. Architectural scale: Victorian hotels subdivided today.

Edwardian theatre and other Tamlyn buildings. Design of Butlins holiday camp.

Dramatic landscape features. Romantic landscape art. Samuel Palmer's local landscapes. The Scottish landscape as painted by Romantic artists. Depiction of the landscape in old postcards.

Atmosphere created by scenery chosen in story illustrations. Ferns in Victorian design.

Art with a purpose (attracting tourists via a postcard design).

Keeping a sketchbook.

Observing changes in the landscape and the effect on scenery and atmosphere.
Leaflet design for Victorian stagecoach timetables.
Sketching what you see, manipulating it for effect.
Using a Victorian print-making technique for illustrating Mother Melldrum's journal.
Replicating Gothic and Neo-Gothic architectural features, accurately and then romantically.
Using shape, colour and light for effect.
Considering stage set, props and lighting for atmosphere of drama piece; painting scenery for a drama and designing costumes.
Pencil sketch of vegetation.
Comparing Victorian sketching materials with today's.
Designing a "Visitors List" magazine.
The Exmoor landscape in the style of Romantic artists.

MUSIC

Listening to a river, dramatic and/or peaceful. Expressing it musically. Musical reflections on changes in the landscape and the effect on scenery and atmosphere. Using Mendelssohn's scenery music as model for composing own Exmoor scenery music.
Setting Kipling poem to music as a class and in groups; performing it. Setting their own poem to music.
Composing, performing, recording soundtrack for a drama.
Elkie Brookes as a Woody Bay resident.

COOKERY & NUTRITION

Mineral springs. Ginger beer. Cooking fish. A wartime Exmoor breakfast.
SW dairy farming, clotted cream, cream teas, syllabubs, junkets. Local food as an element of tourism.
Farm kitchen/inn refreshments for day trippers.
Planning food for an expedition.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Countryside sports, golf, polo, walking. Walking as exercise. Orienteering. Recreational walking, long-distance hikes; the difference. Exploration expeditions in the history of science. Researching Scott's Antarctic expedition, planning it in today's world. Contemporary expeditions. History of rock-climbing in the Valley of Rocks. The Exmoor Coastal Traverse.

CITIZENSHIP

Human rights and democracy in re the French Revolution.
Victorian philanthropy in re today's welfare state. Citizen involvement in Victorian planning and funding capital projects in the community. Acts of Parliament approving these. Drafting design and budget documents to accompany a request for this approval. Monitoring budgets and keeping accounts. Compulsory purchase orders, declaring an interest.
Bye-laws in local government.
Debating state-subsidised journeys in rural areas today. Planning such a service.