

REACHING OUT

We want to reach out! Whilst it may prove difficult for you to visit us at our sites we want to find ways to still work with and support our schools.

As schools return, we look to support each school's efforts to get involved with the rich tapestry of culture and creativity within Borough. Tameside Cultural Services have been looking at how we can best use our years of experience and resources to support schools. We will link in with the Philosophy for Children, as well as the National Curriculum, the schools recovery curriculum and the councils five ways to wellbeing: Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning and Give.

Monthly we will share information relating to our education offer as well as giving further ideas and ways to engage with our offer in the classroom. There will be activities from each of the cultural services teams and we will take the opportunity to highlight one of our site based workshops as when we are in a place to, we can not wait to welcome you back to our sites and great outdoors.



THE HATTING INDUSTRY

Hatting was a major industry in Tameside, especially in Denton. It started in the 1700s when farmers had small workshops on their farms, moulding wool or rabbit fur into hats to keep them warm. As the industry grew, large factories began to produce enormous quantities of hats, eventually switching from manual production to machines. Trade fluctuated as fashions changed, but eventually competition and reduced demand led to the decline in the area's hat industry.

 culture
Tameside



HATTING INDUSTRY



This activity seeks to introduce pupils to a key local industry of the past, and get them to think about the changes and decline of specific industries. They'll also get to make and design a festive hat of their own!

Objectives

This lesson enables pupils to develop skills and knowledge:

- Awareness of historic industries in their area
- Understanding of how changing trends can affect industry
- Reading comprehension
- Creativity/expression

The activity:

1. Pupils can read the text overleaf and then answer the questions on the worksheet, either in pairs or groups, allowing for discussion.
2. Using the instructions, students can create a hat of their own, which can then be decorated as wildly as their imagination allows!

For more information or to discuss please email:
archives@tameside.gov.uk



HATTING INDUSTRY



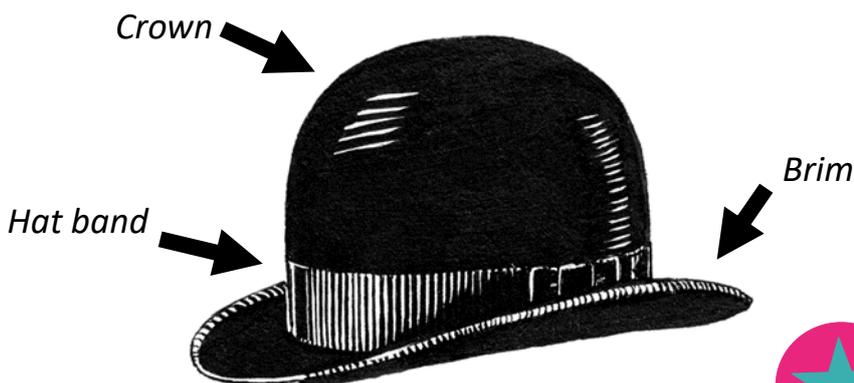
Reading comprehension

Hatting was a major industry around Tameside, especially in Denton. It started in the 1700s, when farmers had small workshops attached to their farms. Farmers could use rabbit fur, as well as making felt from odd pieces of wool from their flock, and mould these materials into hats to keep them warm.

The industry grew and became more profitable, and hat makers, known as “hatters”, began to employ other workers. Soon the area began to be known for producing hats. The industry did have problems however, with trade dipping due to worker’s strikes, as well as a fall in demand for felt hats.

This changed in the 1860s when machines began to be used in the process, which could reduce the cost of making a hat, and around the same time hats became extremely fashionable. Many people would not be seen in public without a hat!

In its heyday Denton had over 35 hat factories. However, that trend was not to last forever. Nowadays hats are not worn often, and mainly used on special occasions such as weddings. Hatting steadily declined in Denton and many of the companies closed, but there is one company still making hats, called Denton Hats.



Resources

Paper

Pen or pencil

Did you know? Portland Basin Museum have a stock of hats from Denton hats for sale in their shop.



HATTING INDUSTRY



Reading comprehension questions

- 1) Which people were originally involved in making hats in Denton?
- 2) What were the hats made from?
- 3) What is the part of the hat that covers the top of the head called?
- 4) When did machines begin to be used in the hatting industry?
- 5) As the demands for hats declined, when do we mainly wear felt hats today?
- 6) What is the name of the only hatting company making felt hats to day in Denton?

Discussion questions

- 1) What are some of the reasons why you think hats have become less popular?
- 2) Do you ever wear hats? If so, what type of hat, and when?
- 3) How do you think the decline of a very large and important industry, like hatting in Denton, would affect an area?
- 4) Do you think hats might become fashionable again in the future?
- 5) Can you think of anything that everyone has now, that might go out of fashion in the future?



HATTING INDUSTRY



Reading comprehension answers

- 1) Which people were originally involved in making hats in Denton?
Farmers.
- 2) What were the hats made from? **Felt made from wool, and rabbit fur.**
- 3) What is the part of the hat that covers the top of the head called?
Crown.
- 4) When did machines begin to be used in the hatting industry? **The 1860s.**
- 5) As the demands for hats declined, when do we mainly wear felt hats today?
Special events, such as weddings.
- 6) What is the name of the only hatting company making felt hats to day in Denton? **Denton hats.**

Discussion answers

- 1) What are some of the reasons that you think hats have become less popular? **Fashions have changed, and clothes have become more casual/ comfortable over time.**
- 2) Do you ever wear hats? If so, what type of hat, and when? -
- 3) How do you think the decline of a very large and important industry, like hatting in Denton, would affect an area? **Businesses close, and people can lose their jobs. New industries must come in to replace the old ones, or it can be hard for people to find jobs. Buildings and factories are often empty until they can be repurposed.**
- 4) Do you think hats might become fashionable again in the future?
Unequivocally yes.
- 5) Can you think of anything that everyone has now, that might go out of fashion in the future? -



HATTING INDUSTRY



Make your own bowler hat

Instructions

- 1) Using a pencil and ruler, measure and cut out strips of paper that are 2cm wide. You can cut out at least twelve strips.



- 2) Join two end strips together and measure it around your head. When you have the correct circumference, glue or stick the ends together. This will be the hatband for your hat.



- 3) Using strips, stick one end to the brim and making an arch, secure the other end to the opposite side of the brim. Continue to do this with the other strips until you have made a dome known as the crown. You can leave it with gaps or add more strips to make it a complete dome.



- 4) You can now add a brim by placing the crown onto a large piece of card and drawing round it. Then measure at least 5cm out and draw a parallel line. Cut out the centre and stick it to the crown with glue or sticky tape.
- 5) You are now ready to personalise your hat. Think of what occasion you would want to decorate your hat for—it might be a special occasion, religious celebration, or maybe just the new year.

Resources

Paper/card
(colourful if possible)

Pen or pencil

Colouring pens/pencils

Scissors

Ruler

Glue/tape

Hat decorating materials
(feathers, paper, sequins,
flowers, etc).

