

Winchester Cathedral Learning Centre

KS1 & KS2 Post-Visit Follow up Idea

Breaking News - St Swithun Lesson Plan

A follow-up activity using the story of Winchester's Saint Swithun to encourage pupils in key English skills such as writing narratives and structuring text.

National Curriculum Links:

- *Year 2 English:* Writing narratives about personal experiences and those of others (real and fictional).
- *Lower Key Stage 2 English:* Use simple organisational devices in non-narrative material (for example, headings and sub-headings).
- *Upper Key Stage 2 English:* Using further organisational and presentational devices to structure text and guide the reader (for example headings, bullet points and underlining).
- *KS1 History:* Significant historical events, people and places in the locality
- *KS2 History:* Britain's settlement by the Anglo-Saxons.

Prior Learning:

- Pupils may have had a tour of the Cathedral and visited St Swithun's shrine.
- They may have already been told the story of St Swithun.

Session Plan

1 - 2 hours

Introduction

- Tell/retell the story of St Swithun. This can be found on the Winchester Cathedral Learning Zone webpage under the School Visits page (Resources to support your visit, Key Stories section).

- Recap with children which parts they think were the most important parts of the story. They can use a simple storyboard to do this, or just discuss as a class.
- Introduce the activity of writing a newspaper article about St Swithun.
- Brainstorm ideas on what a newspaper article should include. Look at a good example once ideas collected.
- Ask pupils to highlight important parts of story again and give ideas of how they could write about it.
- Ask children to plan their ideas on a separate sheet of paper before writing it up.

Main Activity:

- Children write about a significant aspect of the story e.g. the legend of St Swithun's Day.
- They will use a newspaper template, either from this document (see below) or the teacher's own layout.
- They should include a newspaper title that relates to the story/ period, a subheading for the article, and the main body of the text.
- Ask children to leave the picture until the end so they have a clearer understanding of which part of the story they are drawing.

Plenary:

- If time, children could read their articles out loud to the rest of the class.
- Articles can be put together as a 'newspaper' or a bank of 'documentary evidence' on St Swithun, and a front cover could be designed.

Example Newspaper Template:

NEWSPAPER TITLE	
PICTURE	PICTURE CAPTION
ARTICLE HEADING	
ARTICLE MAIN BODY TEXT	

The Winchester Wailer

Your Local News from Winchester

15th July 1273



The Shrine
of Saint
Swithun at
Winchester

SAINT SWITHUN STRIKES AGAIN!

Our local Saint, Bishop Swithun has once again made it rain on 15th July. The legend decrees that it will now rain for 40 days!

A bishop of the old church and a good man who lived many hundreds of years ago, he asked to be buried outside under the eaves of his church when he died, so that the water could drip on him and people could remember him. When his bones were disturbed and moved inside the church years later, the sky turned black, there was loud crashing and streaks of light flew across the sky. Water poured down upon the people from above. A rumour started that this was Swithun showing how angry he was that his wishes after his death were being ignored, and that it would now rain for 40 days. Hundreds of years on, Swithun is still making his feelings known on 15th July, which we now call St Swithun's day.

Will this be the start of another 40 days of wet summer like the legend says, or will we, for once, only have sun? Keep an eye on the weather, everyone, for tomorrow we'll know!