

History KS3

Year 7

Unit 3: How hard was life for medieval people in town and country?

LHI project: Putting Bondington on the map - www.lhi.org.uk/bondington

The medieval parish of Bondington is outside of the walled town of Berwick-upon-Tweed and located on a medieval trading route. The parish contains the foundations of the nunnery of St Leonards (destroyed in the Battle of Halidon Hill in 1333).

Learning objectives:

To investigate what life was like for medieval peasants and townspeople.



Tithe barn

Medieval tapestry

Ask the children to think of the different ways people would tell stories in medieval Britain, eg plays, pictures and songs. The children must design their own section of a tapestry (you could use the Bayeux tapestry as inspiration).

It should show an aspect of medieval life eg strip farming, paying tithes, living in a nunnery or learning a craft. The tapestry can be joined together and displayed on the classroom wall.

Bondington Tales

Ask the class to list the different types of people who are likely to have lived or travelled through medieval Bondington. Appoint each pupil a role based on this list, and ask them to write a brief account of their medieval life. This could be a story, diary or narrative poem.

Remind the children to keep details such as occupation, transport, food and clothing historically accurate. The stories can be collated into a booklet — your own version of the *Canterbury Tales*.

Everyday objects

Print out the pdf *Fieldwalking at St Leonard's Nunnery* from the LHI project website and cut out the pictures of the artifacts. Ask the pupils if they can identify what each object might be. Discuss the problems that archaeologists face in classifying such artifacts.

Ask the pupils to work in pairs and give each the name of a modern object, eg bed, toilet, bath, cooker, fridge or car. Each pair must try to find the medieval equivalent. The children must find out whether peasants, townspeople and the aristocracy had the same things.



Pilgrim's badge

For more information about this and other LHI projects visit www.lhi.org.uk