

Tell Me a Story: Door Lock



BRADING
ROMAN VILLA

This activity has been designed to support Arts Award Explore but can readily be adapted for other levels or used to inspire fun activities undertaken without formal Arts Award assessment.

The inspiration for this session is a metal door lock cover from around 280 AD

It is the cover for a door lock. It hid and protected the workings of the lock.

This would have been on the main door to the West Range of Brading Roman Villa, where the mosaics are. It would have been made in another part of the Roman Empire, probably Italy. It dates from around 280 AD when the West Range was built. It is made from metal / bronze.

It tells us the owner only used the building for part of the year. When he and his family were not using it, they locked it so no one could get in. The farm workers continued to live in the other buildings all year. The only time the owner needed to be at the villa was in July and August when he would have had to decide when to harvest the crops, organise his workers then sell the harvest and pay people for their work. The villa's mosaics tell us that the owner of was rich and must have made a lot of profit from the farm. It was rare to find locks on doors. You only need a lock when there is no one inside the building to use the bolt



At Brading Roman Villa

In groups of 8-10, take a close look at the door lock. Talk about: how old it is (1,740 years old). What shape key do you think it had? Why do you need to use a lock?

Aim: Create a story to be able to tell it as if being interviewed on the radio

Scenario:

There has been a burglary at the villa and a valuable set of goblets has been stolen (see the notes at the end about glass goblets).

Hand out questions to be answered in pairs:

Answers should be in note form, or drawn

- ◆ Who are the villa owners? Names, character, describe the villa
- ◆ Who discovered the burglary? What signs were there?
- ◆ What time was it? What was the weather like? Season of the year?
- ◆ How many burglars ? Evidence?

- ◆ Describe the goblets. Where they had come from, who had given them to the villa owner?
- ◆ Why do you think the burglars broke in? What do you think they were planning to do with the goblets?
- ◆ What are the villa owners planning to do to make their property more secure?

Gather the answers together. Choose someone to be an interviewer, either assign two people to be villa owners or share out the responses so that each person in the group contributes to the recording.

Share story with other half of group at the villa. Record the radio interview on phone or tablet.

After your visit

- ◆ Tell the story in assembly.
- ◆ Record your story and add it to school website. It could be audio only, or video.
- ◆ Create newspaper articles as a group, based on questions eg. burglary description; villa description; goblet description; create newspaper advert extolling virtue of new locks with lock covers; create 'wanted' poster of burglars; create advert for new glassware.
- ◆ Watch this video of locks through the ages: tiny.cc/door-lock
- ◆ Write an Air BnB advert describing the villa.

If you're doing Arts Award, don't forget to record this and check the recording of the dialogue for audibility for assessment and re record if necessary. Ideally, ask the children to say their first names on the recording to ensure the recording can be matched with other assessment data.

Remote Learning Suggestion

There has been a burglary at the villa.

Consider the questions above and create a phone call to the police, telling them what has happened. Don't forget to introduce yourself and say where your villa is. Record it on a phone/tablet.

Other suggestions to help achieve Arts Award

Don't forget that the creation of this story and the telling of it, is one of the 'range of activities' required to achieve Art Award 'Explore'. The evidence for this would be the recording of the story in a digital format (eg memory stick or upload) to be submitted with the rest of the portfolio and accompanying photographs of participation in the activities/assemblies.

Children also need to give a personal response to their participation eg. "I enjoyed doing this because..."

Art activities

- ◆ Keys. Collect old keys and use them to print patterns, or make impressions in clay tiles, or create collages: tiny.cc/key-imprints
- ◆ Shadow puppets. Make simple shadow puppets to re enact your play or make up another story: tiny.cc/shadow-puppet

Artists

Door lock as an inspiration for looking at art connected with puzzles, codes and keys:

- ◆ Kit Williams, author of 'Masquerade': tiny.cc/kit-williams

Art institutions

Find out about:

- ◆ Brading Roman Villa: bradingromanvilla.org.uk

Protecting valuable things:

- ◆ Newport Minster's Parish Chest: newportminster.org/heritage/items/
- ◆ Quay Arts was a former bonded warehouse: www.quayarts.org/about-us/heritage/
- ◆ The Tower of London: tiny.cc/crown-jewels
Crown Jewels: tiny.cc/crown-jewels-2

Other Treasures from Brading Roman Villa

Wine Goblet

The owner of the villa and his guests drank their wine from this. It was made on the River Rhine, in the country we now call Germany.



There was a set of 8 of these goblets. It tells us the people who lived here entertained guests. It is large for a drinking goblet, they probably produced their own wine because they drank so much. Today there is a vineyard on the hill near the villa.

This goblet tells us that there was trade between the people living on the Isle of Wight and those hundreds of miles away up the River Rhine. In Roman times the sea and rivers provided the best form of transport. Trade brought not just things but new ideas and skills to Britain.

Activities

- ◆ Imagine your dream party. Who would you invite, what would you eat, how would you dress the table? 8 goblets, 8 guests.
- ◆ Create a public information advert to go on the radio about the dangers of alcohol.
- ◆ Write a story called 'The poisoner'.

Ploughshare



This is the point that was hard enough to cut the soil. The rest of the plough was made of wood. Wood rots under the ground, so it has not survived to be found. However, there are lots of drawings of ploughs from this period so we know what it would have looked like.

The plough shows that this site was a farm in Roman times. It had been a farm in since the Bronze Age, a thousand years before the Romans. It was also a farm when the plough was rediscovered 1500 years after the Romans and there is still farm land round the villa today.

Activities

- ◆ Create a graphic novel showing the day in the life of a young farm worker.
- ◆ Night sky – Create a plough constellation story.
- ◆ Imagine the farm had been flooded. Create a radio interview with a farmer and the about how the farmer saved their family.

Arts Award

To achieve an Arts Award -Explore Level, children and young people have to collect evidence in an individual arts log of their experiences of:

- ◆ taking part in a range of arts activities, including a personal response about what has inspired them about taking part
- ◆ the work of artists or craftspeople and arts organisations
- ◆ creating a piece of artwork
- ◆ sharing with others what they have enjoyed and/or achieved through completing their Arts Award

Refer to the Arts Award website for detailed guidelines: www.artsaward.org.uk

All activities written by Sue Bailey, storyteller

www.thatsanotherstory.co.uk | suebaileystoryteller@hotmail.co.uk

Education contact: Spencer Brown
education@bradingromanvilla.org.uk | 01983 406223

Brading Roman Villa, Morton Old Road, Brading,
Isle of Wight, PO36 0PH | bradingromanvilla.org.uk

Supported using public funding by



**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**