

Lesson Plans Using Working Lives for Literacy

Discover • Imagine • Learn • *with libraries*

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/libraries



*Working for
Warwickshire*

Using Working Lives for Literacy Lesson 1- Listening to Oral Histories and developing your own questions

Introduction-

To interview a person for an oral history record we need to be able to ask questions and listen to the answers. There are many different kinds of question and by using a range of questions we can enable the interviewee to provide the information we need to make an informative oral record of their life and experiences.

*I keep six honest serving men
[They taught me all I knew]
Their names are What and Why and When
And How and Where and Who*

Rudyard Kipling

National Curriculum Links-

Primary Framework for Literacy

Learning Objectives-

Asking and answering questions

Listening to a speaker and making notes

Identify different question types

Resources-

Working Lives Bingo Sheet

Open and Closed Question sheet

Soundscapes from Working Lives website

Activities-

Play the Working Lives soundscapes from the website to the class as a whole. Give each class an Oral Histories Bingo Sheet. Once they hear the quotation on the sheet they cross it off and once they have heard all 6 quotations they shout "Bingo"

Discuss the Working Lives soundscapes you have just heard. What did they tell us about life in the area? Did anything surprise the class? Why is it important to record them in the first place?

Discuss different types of questions and what is the different between Open and Closed Questions. Using the Open and Closed question Sheet ask the class to identify which is which. This can be done by splitting the room and asking the children to move to either the Open or Closed side after the question has been read out or just by voting at their desks. In pairs ask the children to write 3 open and 3 closed questions

Discover • Imagine • Learn • with libraries

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/libraries

Introduce Rudyard Kipling's Six Honest Men. Still working in pairs ask the children to prepare one question beginning with each of the following:

- What
- Why
- When
- Where
- Who
- How

Each class member now prepares ten questions to ask a partner as an oral history interview. Think about the following possible / suggested themes:

- Favourite lessons
- Holidays
- Hobbies and interests
- Food: likes and dislikes
- Journeys
- Chores

Discover • Imagine • Learn • *with libraries*

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/libraries

Using Working Lives for Literacy Lesson 2- Creating your own Oral Histories archive

Learning Objectives

Asking and answering questions
Listening to a speaker and making notes
Identifying different question types

Resources

Oral histories- any from the list below
Recording equipment

Activities

'My life as a child' Making Oral Histories of today's children

Listen to one or more of the Working Lives recordings below which tell you about life at school in the past. Make notes and use the information to plan an oral history recording of a partner. Here are some themes you might use to prepare your questions

- My earliest memory
- My first day at school
- My favourite place, toy, food, TV programme etc.
- What I have learnt at school
- Playground games
- School holidays

Prepare your recording equipment and start your interview. Allow about five minutes and then change over. Get the person interviewed to give their name and age, date and school at the start of the recording.

Oral Histories about Education (trake numbers relate to the Working Lives website)-

John Heathcote - track 2

Angela Woodcock- track 1

Marian Garside- track 1 (2 1/2 mins in) also good on the general "what life was like" (tracks 1-6)

Percy Rogers- track 1 - went to school in Wales, passed the 11+ but didn't get to go to Grammar School because parents moved house to be closer to work.

Discover • Imagine • Learn • with libraries

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/libraries