

Cedars Park History



A Palace Fit for a King

An activity which looks into more detail about the specific buildings of Theobald's Palace. This can be carried out in the classroom if the weather is poor.

National Curriculum Links

History Key Stage 2 – a local history study

- a study over time tracing how several aspects of national history are reflected in the locality (this can go beyond 1066)
- a study of an aspect of history or a site dating from a period beyond 1066 that is significant in the locality.

Equipment and resources

- Cedars Park Education Pack map
- 1 set of the following per 4 children:
 - Laminated A3 View of Theobald's Palace (from the East)
 - Laminated A3 Plan of Theobald's Palace
 - Palace building cards

Timing

30 minutes

Activity

Walk to the Base Court plinth (point 3 on the history trail).

Please note: It would be useful to visit the Theobald's Palace plinth (point 1 on the history trail) before doing this activity.

Explain that Base Court or Dial Court was the first courtyard in Theobald's Palace.

Walk to point 5 to find the remains of the wall which separated Buttery Court from Base Court. Some of the original 16th century bricks can be seen amongst the tree roots.

When King James I bought the palace from Robert Cecil (in exchange for 17 other manor houses including Hatfield House) he made many improvements to make the palace 'fit for a king'.

Explain that the children will be looking at the palace buildings in more detail and in particular looking at what the purpose of each building was.

Each group needs a set of palace building cards and the view of Theobald's Palace (from the East). Their task is to match the purpose to each building (be aware of red herrings!). Once this has been done and checked, the children can then use the plan of Theobald's Palace to work out where each building was, using the colour coding to help.

Extension Activity/Follow Up

Research the palace buildings in more detail.

Look into Elizabethan diet and clothing.

Palace building cards

Bakehouse	The building where sweet and savoury pies were baked in ovens.
Poultry and scalding house	Chickens were plucked and prepared for cooking in here.
Laundry	The building where clothes were washed and dried.
Boulting house	The building where flour was sifted.
Spicery	The building where spices were stored.
Wet larder	Fresh/dried/pickled fish was stored in here.
Coal house	Coal for making fires was stored here.

Forge house	The building where horse shoes were made and mended.
Buttery	The building where wine and cheese was stored.
Brewery	Beer was brewed here.
Scullery and boiling house	Dishes were washed and cleaned here.
Parlour	Food was prepared and informal meals were eaten in here.
Banqueting Hall	This is where King James I held extravagant parties.

Cut out and laminate each card and make sure you separate the name of the building from its purpose.

View of Theobald's Palace (from the East)



PLAN OF THEOBALD'S PALACE

