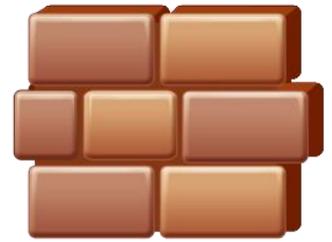


# Cedars Park History



## Wall Detectives

An investigation of the Walled Fruit Garden of Theobald's Palace.

## 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

- Clipboards and pencils
- Cedars Park Education Pack map
- Wall Detectives worksheet
- Tape measures/rulers
- Cameras (optional)
- Magnifying glasses (optional)

## Timing

30 minutes

## Activity

Walk to the Walled Garden and find the Bee Boles information board (point 10 on the history trail) and the nearby Fig tree growing next to the wall. Explain that this fig tree is related to one of the original trees that William Cecil planted as part of the walled fruit garden.

Challenge the pupils to be detectives and investigate the wall that the fig tree is planted in front of. Give clear boundaries of where they can go.

Ask the children to find clues such as: different features they can spot; changes in colour/size of the bricks; and colour of the mortar. Explain

that they need to collect evidence by: sketching/taking photos of what they find; measuring the length and width of bricks; use magnifying glasses to take a closer look at the brick work; measuring the width, height and depth of the bee boles (window shaped holes in the wall).

Give time for the children to investigate and discuss the wall in small groups and record their findings on the worksheet, completing the following questions: What can you see? What can you guess?

Stand in a circle and share/discuss findings. Each group choose one finding. After discussion and input where necessary, the children can then complete the third section of the worksheet. See background information below.

### **Extension Activity/Follow Up**

Write a report on the history of the wall and its importance to archaeology.

Design an information poster explaining the historical facts about the wall.

### **Background information**

Look at the Great Gardens information board (point 11 on the history trail).

The Walled Fruit Garden was part of the Great Garden, which was 7 acres in size, which is 3 x size of Hampton Court Gardens. There were peach, fig and other fruit trees growing along the east facing wall so that they received the morning sun from the east and had protection from the westerly winds. Bee boles in the wall were used in the 16<sup>th</sup> century for straw beehives (called skeps) to provide a habitat for the bees to pollinate the flowers on the fruit trees. The honey was collected and used to sweeten food. Heating channels were built into the wall to help the fruit grow. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century the bee boles were used for garden lanterns to light up the garden and help get rid of insects.

The surface of the garden used to be 1 foot higher as seen by the dark marks on the wall showing the original stream course.

Diagonal tiles at the bottom of the wall could have been for drainage or just decoration!

Evidence of 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century bricks (at the bottom) are narrower, fired at a lower temperature and have sandy coloured mortar. 18<sup>th</sup> century bricks are fired at higher temperatures and are redder however some of the 18<sup>th</sup> century bricks are over-fired, which means they are thicker and have a blue tinge. Lime-wash mortar, made from cow dung and oyster shell, was used. The uppermost bricks are 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Name:

School:

Date:



## Wall Detectives



Objective: To use historical evidence to deduce activity at Theobald's Palace.

Use this equipment to help you record your findings:



What can you see?

(Clue: look at the colours of the bricks, measure the brick size)

What can you guess?

(Clue: use your findings to try and work out what was here)

What did you find out?

(Clue: ask your teacher to share the facts)