CHATSWORTH

DEVONSHIRE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Primary Teachers' Resource Pack - House Style

2017

This year's house exhibition focuses on the clothes, costumes and accessories associated with or inspired by Chatsworth. The exhibition features a wide range of designs from a long history of house style. As the house is very different to previous years, this pack is intended to guide you through the house, highlighting the key aspects of the exhibition and linking them to the national curriculum.

Painted Hall: *Rock & Royalty*

Fashion is something that changes constantly; wearing different clothes says something about you and can send a message to other people.

LOOK at the two very different outfits facing each other in this room.

THINK about these outfits, they were worn by two female members of the same family. Think about how much they contrast.

Notice the page boy's outfit which was worn by the current Duke of Devonshire when he was page to his grandmother, Duchess Mary, at the 1953 coronation.

On your way to the **Chapel**, you will pass the Knight of the Garter Robe.

This formal robe is very difficult to wear as the placement of the sash on the shoulder means that it may slip off if you don't hold yourself in the correct posture.

Chapel Corridor:

The cabinet to your right includes a fascinating selection of items covering the last 500 years at Chatsworth.

Chapel: *Circle of Life*

We all wear outfits for special occasions throughout our lives.

LOOK at the gowns, suits and dresses in this room.

THINK what events do you think these items of clothing were made for?
Can you find the little dress and red shoes? They were worn by a boy in the 19th century, when boys and girls dressed the same until they were about 5 years old.

SUGGESTED CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Art and Design: Thinking about the colours and shapes of the items seen in the Painted hall and the Chapel, draw a picture of an item of clothing that you think represents royalty and write a couple of sentences explaining why.

Science: Think about the materials used to make the different items. Investigate which materials would be suitable to make clothes and which wouldn't.

Make your way through the **Oak Room** and proceed to the top of stairs to the **Great Chamber.**

Great Chamber: *Fancy Dress*

Parties were often given a theme that would encourage extravagant costumes.

LOOK around at the images of the costumes in this room. They would have been worn to the Devonshire House Ball in 1897, which had a historical theme.

THINK about what costumes you might wear for a fancy dress party. How would they differ from the costumes in this room?

State Drawing Room: *Fancy Dress*

Notice the outstanding gold and green dress in this room. This costume was based on Queen Zenobia, a Syrian queen. This is the type of popular historical figure that inspired the costumes that people chose to wear.

LOOK carefully at the Queen Zenobia costume and headdress.

THINK about what kind of materials are used to make the costume. (silk, velvet, pearls, gemstone, gold gauze, tinsel medallions, sequins, silver thread)

SUGGESTED CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Art and Design: Create your own headdress or crown based on the one seen in the State Drawing Room. Think about the different colours of the jewels and their shapes.

History: Think about how costumes have changed over time. Choose a historical figure to research and draw yourself a costume based on that person for the Devonshire House Ball.

State Music Room: *Gold & Silver*

LOOK at the jewellery in this room. Can you spot the Devonshire Parure? This is a set of seven pieces of Victorian jewellery, which you could mix and match in different combinations to suit different occasions.

THINK about the different gemstones and ornaments used to make the Parure. How many do you think there are? (88)

The Parure originally included diamonds, however the 8th Duchess had them removed to contribute to her crown (item 13) which holds 1041 diamonds!

As you pass through the **State Bed Chamber** look at the personalised jumpers that belonged to the 11th Duke.

Slogan jumpers are very popular today. If you were making a Chatsworth jumper or a jumper for the Duke and Duchess, what slogan would you use?

As you go through the next two rooms take a look at the insect and bug jewellery.

South Sketch Gallery: *Georgiana & the 18th Century*

Duchess Georgiana, the wife of the 5th Duke of Devonshire, was a fashion icon in her time.

LOOK at the items in this room. They reflect Georgiana's interests including fashion, politics, mineralogy and the natural sciences. The house has a huge collection of minerals, can you find the amethyst and quartz?

THINK about the clothes you wear today, do you think they are at all similar to the clothes in this room? Georgiana would still wear dresses even for activities such as walking up mountains to collect minerals. Do you think this would be practical?

The dress at the end of the corridor was created by Dior in 1998 but was inspired by Georgiana's dresses.

Sometimes Georgiana and her friends would have to sit on the floor of their carriage rather than the seat to accommodate their very tall fashionable hairstyles! Can you think of anything that people wear today that restricts their movements?

Now head down the **West Sketch Gallery** and look left into the Sabine Room.

Sabine Room: *Hunting Tableau*

Leisure activities often require specialist clothing.

LOOK at the different types of outdoor clothing.

THINK about the different items in this room that are practical and strong. What clothes are needed for leisure activities today? How are they different from everyday clothing?

Make your way down the **North Sketch** and look at the DNA wall. The DNA wall is a ceramic portrait of the current Duke and his family.

Down this corridor you will also notice the Cavendish racing colours. The Cavendish family's colour is straw, the same as the colour of the DNA wall. Racing colours were introduced in the 1700's to make it easier to see who won the race instantly.

If you have time go and see the 19th century **Guest Bedrooms** that are at the end of the gallery.

Please go down the old servants stairs and as you head to the **Great Dining Room** look to your right to see into the main **Library**. The pieces in here are made from books and paper!

How many books do you think there are? (17,000)
What subjects do you think they cover? (There are books on almost every subject, including architecture, travel and science. Some are very old but others are modern, like *Harry Potter*!)

Great Dining Room: *Costume Finale*

The Cavendish family used to dress up in special clothes every evening for dinner; they only stopped this tradition recently.

LOOK at the clothes in this room. This is a selection of the clothes that members of the family wore at meal times. The clothes in this room are from the 1950's onwards.

THINK about why a family would dress up at meal times.
When do you wear special clothes?

SUGGESTED CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

English: Write a postcard to a family member or friend telling them about what you have seen and done at Chatsworth. Draw a picture on the front of the postcard to illustrate this.

If you were going to pick five of the items that you have seen today for an exhibition what would they be? What would your exhibition be called? Where would it take place? Write a few sentences about your ideas and explain them to the person sitting next to you.

Don't forget to stop at the **New Gallery** where you can try on different hats and try out your own mini fashion show!
Remember to look at the amazing **Sculpture Gallery** on your way to the **Orangery** gift shop.