

Time machine

Hampstead Heath as an open space has a rich and varied history. From a Neolithic camp site to a tribal battle ground, the Heath is a great place to explore the way our ancestors lived in their London past.

Time machine explores the lives and lifestyles of Victorian, Edwardian and War period Londoners and considers the importance the Heath played in their lives for health and well being.

Teachers can choose which period they would like to focus on. From the Victorian fairs and the days of 'Appy Ampstead' to Edwardian excesses and the construction of the Thomas Mawson's Pergola and Hill Garden. Explore Henrietta Barnett's dream of a utopian housing estate in the Garden Suburb, or investigate a war time heath life.

Outdoors, history can be explored by looking for clues within a landscape using a variety of engaging activities and excellent support materials such as the recent discovery of old Heath postcards. Drama games, storytelling and wildlife walks will help create a picture of what life was like for children and young people in this area and establish why the Heath was important for them and why, today, it still holds a special place in many London people's lives.

This subject can be adapted for secondary schools and our safe systems of work ensure that our school groups can learn safely in the outdoors.

