

Cambridge History for Schools

2021-2022 Programme

Do you like to crack myths and find out what really happened in the past?

Do you like to imagine how it would feel to live in a different time or place?

Do you wonder how the world came to be the way it is?

Then we need you!

Cambridge History for Schools is an exciting outreach initiative from one of the world's leading History Faculties. Workshops are hands-on and designed to stimulate a passion for asking questions about the past and trying out new ideas.

Cost: Free

We are doing things a little differently this year. Normally, we love nothing more than inviting you to come and see us in the History Faculty at the University of Cambridge. This year, to keep everyone safe, we have moved online.

Teachers or Parents: The workshops will be available from the History Faculty website, after their release date until the end of the academic year, for you to use at your convenience in the classroom, as homework, or at home.

If it is safe to do so, a **spring session will be held at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Trumpington St, Cambridge CB2 1RB.** Details on the event and how to book will be released closer to the time.

For more projects for schools visit www.cam.ac.uk/public-engagement

Telephone number: +44 (0) 1223 3 35340

Michaelmas: Available from 16 November

Key Stage 2 (ages 7-11)

The Medieval Knight and the Rise of Chivalry

Laura Bailey

When you think about the medieval period, one image might spring to mind: the knight in shining armour, ready to rescue a damsel in distress or to defeat his opponents. But who were knights, what did they do, and how were they supposed to behave? What were the qualities expected of the ideal knight? In this workshop, we will learn about the rise of knighthood and development of the code of behaviour known as chivalry. We will examine a range of sources, from medieval romance literature to coins and seals, to explore medieval representations and expectations of the medieval knight.



Does Water Have a History?

Daide Martino

Water has always been around, for as long as life on earth if not longer. This workshop will not try to tell the whole history of every single droplet of water on our planet; it will focus instead on the relationship between humans and water. Was water always seen as a 'resource'? How did past generations make sense of ice, rain, snow, and vapour? What was water used for, and what was it feared for? To answer some of these questions this workshop will focus on European cities, and on the water found in urban rivers, canals, fountains, and sewers.



Michaelmas: Available from 16 November 2021

Key Stage 3 (ages 11-14)

Lies, Spies and Secret Ties: The Cold War Around the World

Alex White

In the 1950s and 1960s, the Cold War defined the world - and even came close to ending it. But how was the conflict experienced outside of major powers like the United States and Soviet Union? Cold War politics influenced decolonisation in Africa and Asia, development in Latin America and revolution in China and the Middle East - were smaller nations merely puppets of the superpowers, or could influential groups use propaganda, spycraft and cultural diplomacy to manipulate the wider Cold War to their own ends?

In this session, we'll explore the Cold War as it was experienced across Africa, Asia and Latin America. Pupils will use critical thinking skills and close reading to uncover the motives behind real examples of Cold War 'fake news' and learn some of the skills which modern historians are using to tell new stories about the global past.



LGBTQ+ History and the Top Hat

Meg Roberts

When you think of a top hat, who do you imagine wearing it? A Victorian factory owner? The Monopoly banker? Are they usually a man or a woman?

Though top hats have always been associated with men and were an essential part of men's fashion for over 100 years, it was more common for women to wear top hats in the Victorian period than you might expect. Sometimes top hats were part of specific women's outfits, such as for horse riding. But there are also numerous cases of women choosing to flout strict gendered dress codes and don a top hat to express their own individuality. In many of these cases, there is evidence that these women may have had relationships with other women, or otherwise would now be identified under the modern LGBTQ+ umbrella.



This workshop will explore what historical fashion choices can tell us about gender roles and relationships in the past. What did it mean to be gender nonconforming or LGBTQ+ in the nineteenth century? What counts as 'evidence' for historical figures' sexual orientation and genders? Why does it matter? Join this workshop for a whistle stop tour of the history of top hats and how they relate to gender and sexual orientation.

Lent: Available from 1 February 2022

Key Stage 2 (ages 7-11)

The Birth of Radio in Britain

Max Long

2022 marks one hundred years since the start of the BBC. The BBC is our oldest national broadcaster, but in the early days it wasn't always easy to appeal to the whole country.

In this workshop, we will explore what radio looked and sounded like a century ago: who were the people that broadcast? What did they broadcast about? What did listeners make of it? By the end of the workshop, we will collaborate in performing our own very own early radio 'broadcast', based on original historical materials from the period.



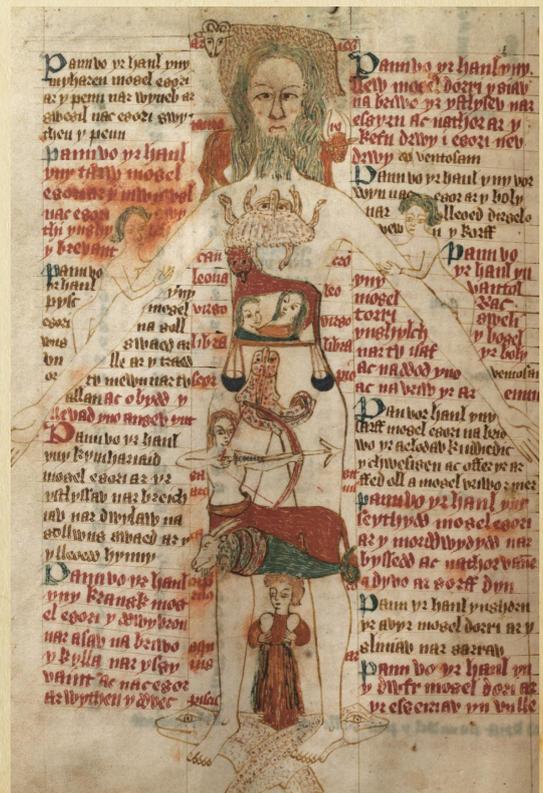
Doctor, Doctor! Medicine in Medieval England

Fiona Knight

When we think of medieval medicine, we imagine long nosed plague doctors, strange ingredients, and superstition. While medieval medicine was more sophisticated than we give it credit for, it also had a huge variety of beliefs and cures. It was known as the 'medical marketplace', which shows that treatment also depended on what you could afford!

This workshop will explore the options open to medieval patients. Patients could rely on 'folk' medicine, such as like charms and spells. Some tried to treat themselves with the food they ate, and others went to healers who used the stars, and even urine, to diagnose illnesses! We will also ask: where could you obtain the right ingredients? Who designed medical instruments? What tools did healers have access to?

We will also learn about what sort of jobs medieval people had, and what hazards and illnesses could result from them, before the days of health and safety...



Lent: Available from 1 February 2022

Key Stage 3 (ages 11-14)

Abraham Lincoln and the American Election of 1860

Jasmin Bath

The 1860 Presidential Election was one of the most hotly contested elections in the history of the United States. Four different candidates, from three different parties, campaigned throughout 1859-1860 to become President. In the end, Abraham Lincoln would be elected President. Lincoln and the Republican Party wanted to end the enslavement of African Americans throughout the USA, but not all Americans agreed. Lincoln's election saw the United States break into one of its most deadly conflicts. One half of the United States fought to end slavery, while the other half fought to save it.



This workshop looks at election material from 1860 to explore how Lincoln becoming President led to the American Civil War. We will think about what made Lincoln popular (and unpopular) with the American people, and how the issue of slavery, in particular, led to the outbreak of war in America.

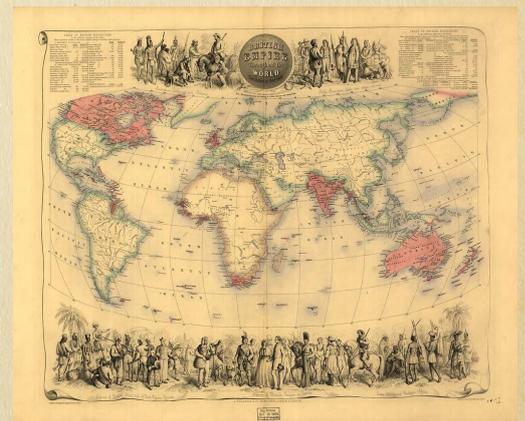
Who's Who? A Social History of Labour in the British Empire

Stephanie van Dam

In the 1930s people in all corners of the world came out onto the streets to strike! You might know about the Great Depression in America, but economic difficulties were felt across the world. In this workshop, we'll look at people working in place colonized by the British. How did they survive when it was difficult to find a job? How did the British Colonial Office treat workers who fought for fair pay and safe working conditions?

We'll also look at the people who tried to influence working conditions in the British Empire. How did they do it? Who was successful and who wasn't? Labourers in places colonized by Britain had to deal with discrimination based on class, gender, ability and especially race. How did discrimination make it more difficult for some people to find work than others?

When exploring these questions, we'll see that people and their social ties were very important for officials who wanted to govern. At the same time, we'll find that social ties were also essential when working people wanted to protest how they were governed.



Lent: Available from 1 February 2022

Key Stage 3 (ages 11-14)

Religious Tolerance in Early Modern Transylvania

Elvira Tamus

Thanks to *Dracula*, Transylvania is often associated with vampires, castles and mountains. However, there is so much more to the history of this East Central European region. Since the Middle Ages, Transylvania had been the home of Hungarians, Szeklers, Saxons and Romanians. By the sixteenth century, it became the melting pot of Roman Catholics, Calvinists, Lutherans, Antitrinitarians, Jews and Orthodox believers. Most importantly, in the age of religious persecutions throughout Europe, Transylvania was a place where communities enjoyed relative religious freedom.

In this workshop, we will explore the various ethnic and religious groups and the culturally diverse princely court of Transylvania. We will explore Early Modern Transylvania as an example of religious tolerance, an idea which is very relevant today.

