



Teachers' Notes – *The People's Business – 150 Years of The Co-operative*

Many of the activities will work well either undertaken individually or in small groups.

There are six activities which focus on different parts of the exhibition.

We would suggest that you divide the class into smaller groups and start with different activities, sharing created work with each other at the end of your visit.

All groups

Growing & Buying At Home & Abroad

Pupils may find it easier to rewrite the words to a familiar song.

If needed, the following settings could be suggested: Mr Tweedale on his journey, Mr Tweedale making a deal, the products growing in situ (give an impression of the country), in the shop or in someone's home.

You can suggest that pupils show more than one location to create contrast, for example the product overseas and the product being enjoyed in the UK.

KS2 only

Catching The Customer's Eye

The children can use words, an image or both in their poster. They may find it useful to look at some of the examples of posters and packaging around the exhibition.

Things It Makes

There are a number of items on the list that not everyone will know:

Buckfastleigh serges - a type of twill fabric that has diagonal lines or ridges on both sides

Devised by Emily Capstick of Peoplescape Theatre in association with the People's History Museum.



Embrocation - a liquid used for rubbing on the body to relieve pain from sprains and strains

Fenders - a low metal frame which confines falling coals to the hearth

Fustian - thick, hard-wearing twilled cloth

Glycerine - used in cosmetics and for culinary purposes

Hosiery - tights and stockings

Kako - we don't know what this is

Mantles - a loose sleeveless cloak or shawl, worn especially by women

Osformo salt - table salt (also used for baking)

Portmanteaux - a large travelling bag, typically made of stiff leather

Silesias - we don't know what this is

Silvox - we don't know what this is

Sitting eggs - we don't know what this is

Wringers - used to wring water out of washing

Yarmouth Bloater Paste - a bloater is a name for cured herring which is turned into a strong fish paste

Do you know any of the items that we don't? Please let us know.

KS3 & 4

Taking the Biscuit

Write the word down the page with one letter in each box. The *Crumpsall Nursery Rhyme* uses each letter as a new sentence followed by the words 'is for...' (please see below for example of EQUALITY):

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E is for Envy when shares are not even

Q is for Quit when people feel undervalued

U is for Unfair and Unjust... (and so on)

Pupils may also use a more informal structure:

E veryone born

Q ualities unknown

U gly face of ignorant judgement...

Pupils should be encouraged to edit their own work.

Manchester Took It Too

Techniques used may include the use of tense, personification through pronouns and verbal imagery, references to spirit, status and qualities.

A copy of the manuscript is available on the gallery to read and an additional copy is included with these notes. Some pupils may find it helpful to highlight or make notes on the written text as well as listening to the film.

KS3 & 4 should also have transcripts of the film '*Manchester Took It Too*'

'Manchester Took It Too' Transcript

From the North West Film Archive

A unique photographic record of the damage sustained by Manchester on the nights of December the 22nd and 23rd 1940.

The flames of war eat at the heart of Manchester, in one of the fiercest raids of the German Blitzkrieg on Britain. A storm of bombs wrecked havoc in this proud city, but they will leave it a prouder city still. Manchester will remember the horrors of that

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attack as long as the heart of the north continues to beat, but she will remember its glories too: the selfless service and dauntless courage with which her people met their hour of trial. The firemen who risked their lives hour after hour saved much that might have been lost, but still the damage was great. This on the corner of the old market place, with its wealth of historical associations. Yet another link with the past has been destroyed.

That was Martins Bank. Corporation Street, that famous thoroughfare is a network of hoses as the firemen struggle to gain control of the flames.

The Nazi bombers have used on Manchester the technique of destruction that they have already tried out in London. A combination of high explosive bombs, with incendiaries. The Co-operative Union building burns, very well known in Manchester, a symbol of co-operative effort, but destruction is easier than construction and the culmination of years of co-operative effort can be destroyed in a few hours or less. Nevertheless the spirit of co-operation cannot be destroyed and Manchester people co-operate in the Blitz like never before, fighting against the forces of destruction. Another CWS building the furnishing block in Balloon Street.

The famous Mitchell Hall blazes. Outside the CWS central premises in Corporation Street the company's own unit of the home guard takes duty to keep people away from the danger zone. Employees must show their passes as they go back to business as usual or if not quite as usual, still back to business. Their place of business is damaged its windows shattered and gaping, but these Manchester people carry on. Through two terrible nights the Blitz went on without cease, now it's over and Manchester gets to work to clear up the mess. This was the Mitchell Hall where the meetings of the Co-operative Wholesale Society had been held for many years. From that platform speakers have addressed the members at half yearly and annual meetings at which the society's policies were formed. The platform and proscenium are here seen remodelled according to German ideas of beauty. The Nazis spare nothing their aim is to dislocate the life of the city and terrorise the

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people. Their military objective is morale, but instead of destroying it the bombs have made the morale of Manchester stronger than ever.

This desert of debris was the roof of the CWS furnishing block. Here in the midst of Manchester, one may study something of the genius of Germany, but there are more practical lessons to learn too. For instance observe that in the midst of chaos a tall strong modern building stands unscathed a new CWS building. Whilst nearby the Co-operative Union offices housed in an older type of building have the whole of their top floor gutted. Again now you will see the scars left by incendiaries, that failed to burn through the roof of the strong bank building, seven incendiaries burned themselves out here in vain. One bounced off the parapet onto an old building below; there is the result, destruction.

Here is Piccadilly, Manchester's Piccadilly it was famous too. But loss and damage do not destroy the spirit or the power of such a place as Manchester. It is still the centre of the cotton trade and still the great dynamo of British industry in war as in peace. This was Miller Street, and that was the great building of Baxendale.

The famous old market place of Manchester all that remains of it. Another place equally famous, the Free Trade Hall, scene of many historic political meetings and the home of the Halle concerts for Manchester is a great centre of culture as well as of commerce. Culture and commerce suffer alike. This was the Royal Exchange where vast business in cotton was transacted. And this was the volunteer chapel at Manchester Cathedral, a place of worship desecrated.

It is so easy to destroy, so hard to build, but not so hard for the hearts and hands of Manchester. After the war a new city will rise. Now the first step is to clear away the ruins, bring down the broken walls, of what were once busy stores and peaceful homes.

The works department and the ARP salvage squads are helped by the fire brigade with their great extension ladders. The army lends a hand to civilian workers in clearing away debris. Men of the Pioneer Corps in action. Some of masonry is

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shattered to powder, some stands firm and will help to rebuild the city, there is a sermon in stone.

We have got to get things straight, though very little rebuilding will be undertaken in bombed areas till the war is over, important work must go on, so workmen at a damaged building lay a new floor, this is the CWS administrative block.

These firemen you are watching work all of them through the Blitz. And what are they doing now? Preparing for more trouble if it comes, keeping up constant practice. These CWS home-guards were in the thick of it too and they too carry on. So do the staff, the vans go out, the employees come on duty. Manchester is justly proud of its unshakable men and women. On the roofs of the battered city, patched up and carrying on, the spotters watch the sky and down below it is business as usual.

National Curriculum Links

Key Stage 2

History: 2a, 3, 4a, 4b, 5b, 5c, 11a, 11b

En1 Speaking and Listening: 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 3a,

En2 Reading: 1d, 2a

C/PSHE: 1b, 3a

Key Stage 3

History: 1.5a, 1.6b, 2.1b, 2.2a, 2.2b, 2.3b

Citizenship: 2.1a, 2.1c, 2.2a,

English: 1.4d, 2.1l, 2.2j, 2.3a, 2.3b, 2.3c, 3.1b, 3.1d, 4.1b, 4.1c, 4.1d, 4.1f, 4.1j

Geography: 1.2a, 1.2b, 1.4a, 2.4a

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Economic Wellbeing/Financial Capability: 1.d

Personal Wellbeing: 1.4b

Key Stage 4

Citizenship: 1.1b, 1.3c, 2.1a, 2.1d, 2.2b, 2.3d

English: 1.4d, 2.1l, 2.2j, 2.3a, 2.3b, 2.3c, 3.1b, 3.1d, 4.1b, 4.1c, 4.1d, 4.1f, 4.1j

Economic Wellbeing/Financial Capability: 1.d

Personal Wellbeing: 1.4b

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