NEWTON'S PLACE
WOLBOROUGH STREET
NEWTON ABBOT
TQ12 1JQ



NEWTON ABBOT MUSEUM

EDUCATION

2026- 2027

Learning comes alive here – and it's completely free for schools!

Step back in time, get hands-on with real objects, and spark your students' imaginations! Our free workshops are designed to make history exciting, interactive, and unforgettable.



FREE
Community Transport
see page 7 for details

Bring history to life with our workshops

Workshop + visit with trail or activity.

- **Suggested visit time 2 hours.**
- **Community rooms must be pre-booked for lunch (if needed).**
- **Mondays are reserved for educational groups.**

Suggested Schedule for 30 children	
10:00-10:15	Arrive - Get in, coats off, settle in, toilet and WELCOME Split into two groups of 15
10:15 – 11:00 approx. 45 mins	Group 1 - Facilitated workshop Group 2 - Explore the museum and take part in trail activities
11:00– 11:45 approx. 45 mins	Group 1 - Explore the museum and take part in trail activities Group 2 - Facilitated workshop
11:45-12:00	Sum up and feedback about the day. Toilet. Coats on and depart.



'It was all fantastic and perfect for what we needed to achieve our Curriculum objectives. The time in the museum was great as it put to life so many aspects that we had been learning about such as the railways.'

Feedback from Canada Hill Primary

Railway Adventures - workshop and a railway themed trail in the Museum

Discover how the coming of the railway transformed Newton Abbot and the lives of the people who lived here. Explore the impact of steam power on travel, trade, holidays and daily life. Find out about Isambard Kingdom Brunel and how he transformed travel in the South West. You can choose one of the workshop activities below:

- Explore maps showing the growth of the town from the 1700s to the 1930s. What landmarks in Newton Abbot help you identify familiar parts of the town?
- Look at postcards from the past and design a postcard to post to a friend or family member.
- Get up close and handle real railway objects from the past.
- Build and decorate a cardboard pencil holder in the shape of a train engine.
- Travel on an imaginary train journey – get your ticket punched and its all aboard! What will you see on your trip and who will you meet on the way?

KS1 & 2 Curriculum links

- History: Local study, significant turning points (railways), change over time
- Geography: Map skills, human geography (transport networks)
- English: Postcard and letter writing, role-play and speaking & listening
- Art & DT: Creative craft activity

Wartime in Newton Abbot - workshop and a trail or evacuation activity.

In the activity you can step into the shoes of a World War II evacuee: register, pack your suitcase, explore and write a postcard home to share your adventures.

Find out how WWI and WWII impacted on life in the town. You can choose one of the workshop activities below:

- Imagine the life of a WWII evacuee. What will you take with you in your evacuee suitcase to your new temporary home? Write a letter home – what news will you share?
- Explore the handling collection items from the museum store including ration books, posters, newspapers and see other items from the store including ARP helmets, whistles and bells and even a hand grenade.

KS1 & 2 Curriculum Links:

- History: Explore events beyond living memory, significant turning points (WWI & WWII), and local history connections
- English: Write letters, practise speaking & listening through role-play
- Critical Thinking: Use artefacts as historical evidence and build enquiry skills

Trade & Industry - workshop and a trade & industry themed trail in the Museum

Explore the industries that built Newton Abbot including the potteries and railways. Learn about how materials and goods were transported with the Stover Canal and granite tramway. You can choose one of the workshop activities below:

- Be inspired by the famous Aller Vale pottery industry and design a piece of pottery either drawn or using air drying clay.
- Create a series of train carriages to transport goods to Teignmouth docks – what will you be sending to London from your business?
- Learn about the rope industry and the wool trade, create lengths of rope and use a home-made spindle to turn fleece into wool.
- Get close up with objects from businesses and industries that once thrived in Newton Abbot.
- Make your own canal and boat, think about the goods that you may want to transport.

KS1 & 2 Curriculum links:

- History: Study local industry and trade, and understand how industries shaped the town and people's lives
- DT & Art: Design and make pottery and craft projects inspired by historical industries
- Science: Explore materials and simple processes (spinning wool, clay models)

Significant Local People and Their Inventions - workshop and a trail about significant people in Newton Abbot

Many world-famous people are from Newton Abbot including the first woman barrister, a polar explorer, the designer of the London Palladium and the inventor of the first deep sea diving engine. You can choose one of the wprkshop activities below:

- Invent a machine or device that will help make the world a better place. Drawings and plans of devices that will improve life at home or school or during leisure time.
- Recreate the experiment of John Lethbridge and his efforts to invent a diving machine that would journey to the bottom of the sea.

KS1 & 2 Curriculum links

- History: Learn about significant individuals and their impact locally, nationally, and globally
- Science & DT: Experiment, design, and create inventions
- English: Present and explain ideas through drawings, plans, and discussion
- Critical Thinking: Explore cause and effect — how inventions change lives

A Tudor Experience - workshop and a meeting with our costumed interpreters

- Meet Lady Katherine, her servant or Sir William and get a glimpse of life upstairs and downstairs! You can choose one of the workshop activities below:
- Meet Tudor characters who are in authentic costume and ask them questions about what life was like in the Tudor times.
- Find out about food in Tudor times – what did people have in their diet and how does it compare to what we eat today?
- Be inspired by the timeline in the museum and create a timeline that shares your life over the last year, month or week.

KS1 & 2 Curriculum links:

- History: Study of a period beyond 1066, significant individuals, and daily life in Tudor time
- English: Develop descriptive writing and discussion skills inspired by historical characters
- DT & Art: Create timelines and explore visual representation of historical events
- PSHE: Understand social structures and daily life in the Tudor period

Life in Victorian Newton Abbot - workshop and a trail about Victorian Newton Abbot

Experience the sights and sounds of the Victorian era, learn about the characters who shaped the town and find out what everyday life was really like in Victorian times for children and adults. You can choose one of the workshop activities below:

- Dress in replica Victorian costumes and discuss class and clothing styles.
- Handle Victorian objects ranging from domestic items to costume jewellery.
- Be inspired by Victorian greeting cards to create elaborate cards for birthdays, Valentines day, Easter or Christmas.
- Queen Victoria made the peg doll very popular. Create a peg doll toy using pegs, material and wool.

KS1 & 2 Curriculum links

- History: Study of local history, Victorian daily life, and changes over time
- Art & DT: Creative card-making and toy-making activities
- English: Discussion and descriptive writing inspired by Victorian life
- PSHE: Explore class differences and social history

Brick Invent Design Evaluate Achieve Succeed

Lego Workshops with Brick Ideas- Build trains, bridges, tanks – or anything else your topic inspires!
£90 for a 2-hour workshop

Can't come to us? We'll come to you

Our Community Outreach Officer can bring the museum experience – and real museum objects – to your classroom (all visits are free of charge, but travel costs will apply to schools outside Newton Abbot)





Our handling collection features over 200 items from all periods in history and provides an opportunity to get close to real objects that share fascinating stories.

Young Curator Club

Over a period of 6 weeks, students can learn about the role of a museum curator and be involved in tasks such as handling and documenting objects, keeping pests at bay and conserving museum items. Sessions culminate in choosing objects for display and creating an exhibition.





History Club

Either during lunchtime or after school, a history club can bring the past to life for students interested in finding out more about their local history. Getting to grips with objects from our handling collection and associated activities will inspire all involved.

Accessibility at the Museum

Preparing for Your Visit

We are have a variety of resources that can help you prepare for your visit including our visual story.

If you need support with planning, we are always on hand either in person or over the phone to help.

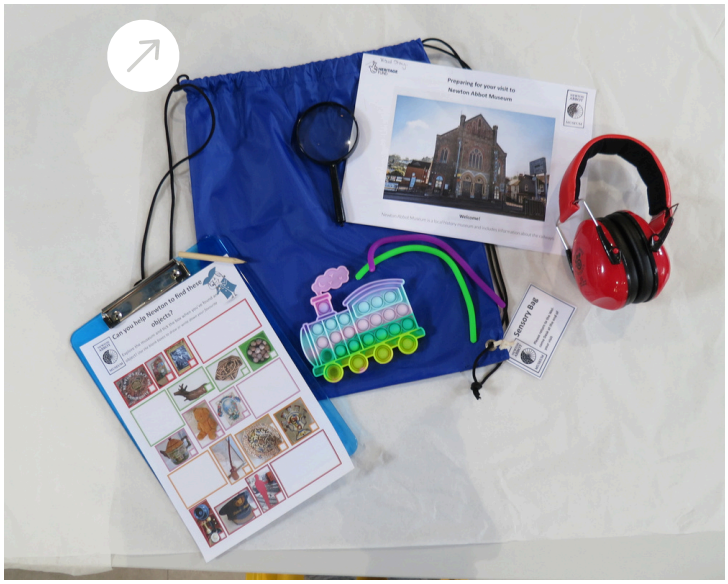


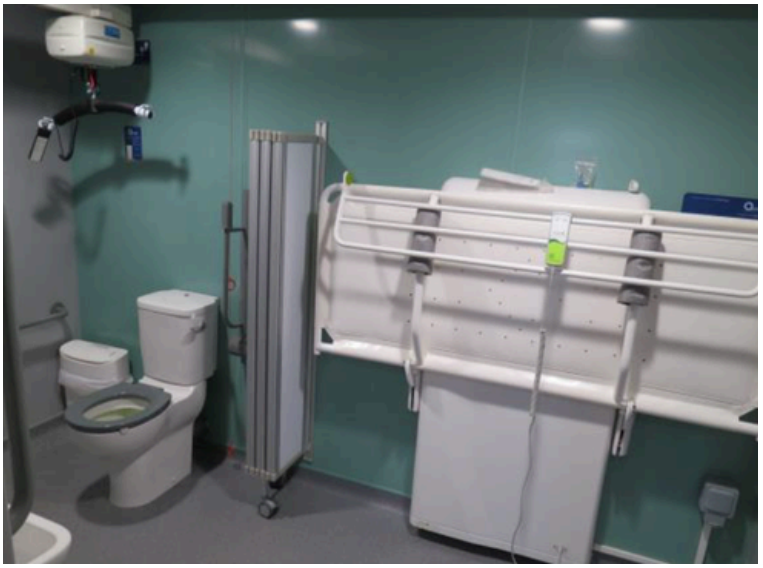
Community Transport

If your group would struggle to get to the Museum on foot or you need support for someone with a wheelchair or walking aid, we are able to provide free community transport to the Museum (within Newton Abbot).

When you Arrive

- Our building is fully accessible including step free access throughout.
- We have a fully accessible toilet including a hoist and adult change table.
- We have a variety of resources that are available during your visit such as audio guides, sensory backpacks with PEC cards, ear defenders and a braille guide.





Museum Opening Hours

🕘 Museum Opening Hours
The Museum is closed to the general public each Monday so that schools and groups have the space to themselves (booking required).

Open to the public:
Tuesday–Saturday: 9.30am – 4.30pm

Sundays & Bank Holidays: Closed

Travel Info

FREE Community Transport available within Newton Abbot
🚌 Coach Drop-Off:
Western Service Yard (by Alexandra Cinema) or near the library (slip road)
🚐 Mini-Bus Drop-Off:
Newfoundland Way Car Park (next to museum, pay and display)

Contact Details

Museum Address: Newton Abbot Museum, Wolborough Street,
Newton Abbot, TQ12 1JQ
Phone: 01626 201 121
Email: groups@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk





Sample Trails

KS2 Find out about... The Victorians





1. Find the hot water bottle – what makes it different from the hot water bottles used today?

2. Find and draw the embroidered card.



3. What was the scandal at Newton Abbot workhouse?

4. Find the bread riot truncheon – what shops were being looted? Why?

5. At the dressing table, what do you think the hooks a

Sample Trails



6. Smell the Bradley Woods perfume – can you describe the smell?



7. The Victorians had particular rules about mourning – look at the facts in the costume area. Choose your favourite one.

8. Try on some Victorian clothes in the costume area, think about if these items would worn by a rich or poor person?



9. What do you think children did for fun in Victorian times?



Find out about...
The railway in Newton Abbot

Sample Trails

All Aboard the Railway In Newton Abbot!

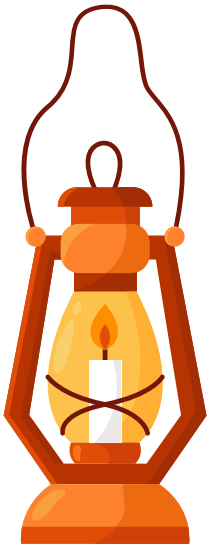


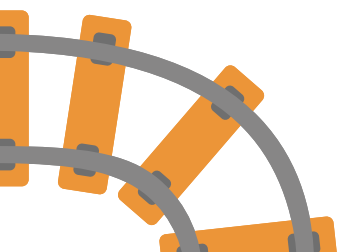
1. Who designed the railway in Newton Abbot?

2. What is the name of the first train to arrive in Newton Abbot in 1846?

3. Pull the train levers 2 & 9 to change the signals

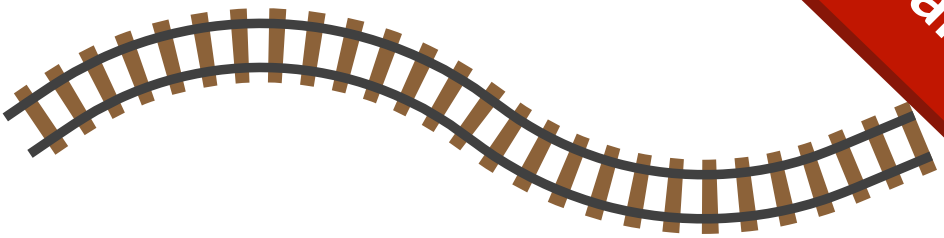
4. Find the lamps - why would they have been used?

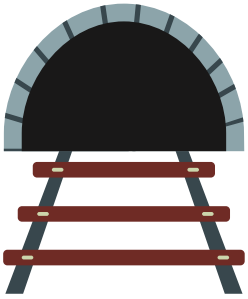




Sample Trails

5. Find the atmospheric railway and have a go p
through the tube





6. What new fact have you learned today?

7. What was your favourite object from your visit? Why do you like it?
Draw it in the box opposite

