

national  
wool  
museum  
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## opportunities for schools 2011-2012

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# bringing learning to life



Come and explore the story of the Welsh woollen industry at the **National Wool Museum**.

The Museum tells the story of the woollen industry through working machinery, archive material, exciting hands-on displays and the textile gallery. Facilities include an Education Room – ‘The Search Engine’ – cloakroom, shop and disabled access. Even our smallest visitors can safely experience a real factory environment in the working mill.



Sandford Award for excellence in heritage education

All our programmes have **cross-curricular** appeal and have been created with the **Cwricwlwm Cymreig** and the **National Curriculum** in mind. Our sessions focus on **history, geography, science, art, design and technology** and the development of pupil’s **key skills**.

Whether you are studying the **woollen industry, the Industrial Revolution, clothes, materials and their properties, people and work in the past** or the **local area**, the National Wool Museum has something for you. You will also find inspiration from our textiles for your own **weaving or colours and patterns** project.

We recommend that you book a facilitated session for your visit. There are a number of sessions available, depending on the size of your group and the amount of time you wish to spend at the Museum. Please contact the Education Officer to discuss your individual requirements.

Entry is **FREE** thanks to the support of the Welsh Government

# for foundation phase and KS2

## Science Session

### Spring term only

Throughout the spring term to support your activities for science week, follow a science/technology session full of fun experiments exploring the properties of wool and natural energy.

**Duration:** 1 hour **Numbers:** group size 25 max

## Facilitated sessions available all term

### From fleece to fabric

Follow the traditional process of creating textiles, from the fleece to the finished cloth. Discover the skills involved in the large scale manufacture of woollen cloth compared to the hand processes of transforming fleece into fabric, through demonstrations of working machinery and a range of hands-on activities with your very own craftsperson.

### Wonderful wool

Explore the properties and products of wool in a facilitated session in the Textile Gallery. Discuss why wool is the right material for the job as you dress up, examine patterns and handle collections – from the traditional Welsh costume and *carthenni* to current fashion trends.

**Duration:** 1 hour

**Numbers:** group size 25 max

### The woollen industry and the Victorian era

The Industrial Revolution dramatically altered the face and pace of wool production in Wales. Explore the factors behind the rise of the woollen industry in Dre-fach Felindre: the location, the skills of the local people, the availability of wool, the arrival of the railway and its effect on the local community, working conditions and the differences between the mill owners and the workers. The session includes a slide show of images, group discussion and curriculum-based activities.

### Craft workshops

We can also provide a variety of craft workshops, including weaving and felt making. Your pupils can get creative and discover for themselves the fascinating world of textile production and design.

## Complimentary sessions

### 1. Museum trail

A tour of the Museum will enhance pupils' learning as they see the development from the domestic industry to the industrial machinery, and stories of the people who lived and worked in the local community.

**Duration:** 45 minutes

### 2. Village trail

The village trail brings the effect of the Industrial Revolution to life as you discover the sites of old factories, compare the houses of the mill owners to those of the workers and see the growth of the village through its churches, chapels, shops and community hall.

**Duration:** 45 minutes

# for teachers

## Teacher-led activities

### The Search Engine: hands-on learning room

This excellent educational facility houses the Museum's hands-on collection together with information on ways you can explore it. As part of your programme, you can combine activities in the Museum with self-led activities in the Search Engine. If you wish to use this facility please arrange with the Education Officer to visit the Museum beforehand.

### Textile trail

Over the past year professional artist Julia Griffiths Jones has created five pieces of work in response to the collection. They are displayed around the Museum and each has an activity for children linked to it. Julia's work offers a contemporary and personal response to the collection and the textile trail allows pupils to respond creatively to the Museum. For more information about her work and related activities please contact the Education Officer.

## CPD opportunities for teachers

### Textile Techniques

This one day course can be offered as a whole school INSET or to a group of textile/art/craft teachers. The practical session explores textile techniques such as felting, wax resist, weaving and quilting. Based on the National Curriculum and Cwricwlwm Cymreig requirements, this opportunity is available for between 5 and 15 teachers and can be held at the Museum or at your school. We charge £50 for school-based courses as a contribution towards travel costs, and a contribution per person for materials.

### How to get the best out of a visit to the National Wool Museum

Take a day to plan a visit and to explore thematic potential. This session includes a tour of the Museum and its learning facilities, as well as providing a flavour of the schools sessions. It also includes an opportunity to provide feedback and to shape future provision. A minimum of 5 teachers are required. To arrange a date for a group, or to be notified when an individual place is available, please contact the Museum.



# making a booking

We ask that all school groups book their visit. Please contact the Education Officer if you would like more information, to discuss other ways of using the Museum or to book a visit on **(01559) 370929**. Once a booking has been made, we will send you written confirmation of your booking and information on planning your visit.

Remember that there is a shop at the Museum and you can arrange for lunches to be prepared for your group by the cafe for £2.60 per head. If your group would like to visit the shop or the cafe, please tell us when you are booking.

You can find health and safety information to help you complete your risk assessment at **www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/learning/wool**.

Please note we are closed Mondays from 1 October to 31 March.

## Finding us

The National Wool Museum, Dre-fach Felindre, nr Newcastle Emlyn, Carmarthenshire, SA44 5UP Tel. **(01559) 370929**



The Museum is 16 miles west of Carmarthen off the A484 and 4 miles east of Newcastle Emlyn.

**For a large print version of this leaflet,  
call (029) 2057 3149.**