



Learning Sessions 2025/26

Introduction

Discover our range of engaging and inspiring ***Stories of Gloucester*** learning sessions.

Suitable for pupils from Early Years through to Key Stage 3, these unique sessions have been specially created for the Museum of Gloucester by award-winning poet and highly experienced learning resource writer [Isy Mead](#) and are delivered by our team of Museum Inspirers who will bring the stories and histories of Gloucester alive for your pupils.

With a focus on interactive storytelling, role play and with plenty of opportunities to develop speaking, listening and oracy skills these sessions offer an immersive way to learn about the history of Gloucester and its people.

Session information

- Our learning sessions typically run 10am-2pm and consist of two activity sessions of your choice. We would recommend that one of the sessions is the Gloucester City Story Walk.
- Half day sessions including one activity session are available and run 10am-12.30pm or 11.30am - 2.00pm.
- All sessions include half an hour for lunch.

Session costs

- Costs are based on classes of up to 32 pupils and include accompanying adults.
- Sessions cost £4.69 per pupil (£150.00 for a class.)
- A reduction is available for schools booking a full day/two sessions. The cost will be £4.38 per pupil (£280.00 per class)

How to Book

- To book, please fill in the Learning session [enquiry form](#). A member of the Learning team can then advise on current availability and guide you through the booking process.

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EYFS

Stories, Rhymes and Toys Through Time

Suitable for Reception classes

In this active and participatory session, your students will discover a magical folk tale and nursery rhymes with Gloucestershire origins. After playing with rhyme, the students will explore the Museum including the collection of toys and games.

EYFS links:

- Communication and Language - Listening, Attention and Understanding, Speaking.
- Literacy - Comprehension.
- Understanding the World - Past and Present.

Key Stage 1

Stories, Rhymes and Toys Through Time

Suitable for KS1, Year 1 and 2 classes

In this active and participatory session, your students will discover a magical folk tale and nursery rhymes with Gloucestershire origins. After playing with rhyme, the students will work in groups to explore a range of toys from the Tudor period to the present day, placing them in chronological order and discussing how they have changed. Includes free time to explore the Museum.

National Curriculum links:

English:

- Learning to appreciate rhymes and poems, and to recite some by heart.
- Becoming very familiar with key stories, fairy stories and traditional tales, retelling them and considering their particular characteristics.
- Participate in discussion about what is read to them, taking turns and listening to what others say.

History:

- [Pupils] should know where the people and events they study fit within a chronological framework and identify similarities and differences between ways of life in different periods.

Golden Harps & Spinning Wheels

Suitable for KS1 and LKS2

Bring your class for a truly breathtaking literacy session in the glorious, evocative surroundings of Blackfriars Priory, the perfect setting for transportation to the world of fairy stories, myths and folktales. Students will enjoy medieval trickster stories from the Museum Inspirer, as well as creating versions of Jack and the Beanstalk in groups to perform in a giant's castle. There will also be time to experience life in 1200, from role playing the daily life of a friar, to playing traditional medieval games in the Dormitory.

National Curriculum links

English:

- Increasing their familiarity with a wide range of books, including fairy stories, myths and legends, and retelling some of these orally.

History:

- A local history study over time tracing how several aspects of national history are reflected in the locality; can be beyond 1066.

Key Stage 2

Roman Gloucester, Gods and Ghosts

Suitable for KS2, years 3-6

Your class will be greeted by a Museum Inspirer of Glevum, who will introduce the gravestones of some local inhabitants, and the shrines to local Gods, such as Mercury, Mithras and Mars. Your students will hear stories of the journey of the afterlife, down the River Styx to the three-headed dog Cerberus. Students will prepare and perform their own version of a Roman story, using objects from the Museum's handling collection to incorporate into a dramatic narrative. Your class will return to school brimming with spooky stories, God-ly goings-on and a closer kinship with Roman everyday life. A truly memorable

experience, combining literacy, critical thinking skills, collaborative groupwork and historical knowledge!

At the end of the session there will be a short visit to the Eastgate Chamber, but please note this is not wheelchair accessible. A visit to the Eastgate Chamber is also covered on the City Story Walk.

Curriculum links:

English:

- Pupils should become more familiar with and confident in using language in a greater variety of situations, including through drama.
- Increasing their familiarity with a wide range of books, including fairy stories, myths and legends, and retelling some of these orally.
- Preparing poems and play scripts to read aloud and to perform, showing understanding through intonation, tone, volume and action

History:

- The Roman Empire by AD42 and its impact on Britain.

Tales from the Iron Age: Boudica's and the Birdlip Mystery

Suitable for LKS2, years 3-4

In this enchanting session, students will be greeted by an Iron Age round-house dweller, who will share some objects from their home for the students to handle, including ancient arrow-heads and animal bones. After creating group dramatisations of Boudica's resistance to the Roman army, students will use evidence to suggest the usage and meaning of the Museum's treasure, the Birdlip Mirror, one of the most beautiful examples of Iron Age art, not just in Gloucestershire, but in the world! Weaving fact and fiction, evidence and imagination, your class will come away with a true sense of life in Iron Age Britain.

National Curriculum links:

English:

- Pupils should be encouraged to use drama approaches to support their understanding of meaning

History:

- Understand the methods of historical enquiry, including how evidence is used rigorously to make historical claims (History Curriculum, KS2)
- Changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age, Roman Empire and its impact on Britain, British Resistance, for example, Boudica (History Curriculum, KS2).

Saxons and Dragons

Suitable for KS2

Students will be greeted by a Saxon inhabitant of Mercia, who will tell a local Gloucestershire story of a Saxon dragon. Using oracy, critical thinking skills and collaborative groupwork, students will prepare and perform their own version of the tale, creating a character of a local Saxon villager who uses the everyday tools of his trade to beat a dragon. Students will use

artefacts from the Museum's handling collection and apply their knowledge of Saxon everyday life to create a dramatic narrative. They will also find out about the Saxon heroine of Gloucester, Aethelflaed. Your class will return to school brimming with imaginative stories based on historical fact, and a truly memorable experience!

Curriculum links:

English:

- Be able to summarise and present a story in their own words; extending confidence, enjoyment and mastery of language through public speaking, performance and debate.
- Increasing their familiarity with a wide range of books, including myths, legends and traditional stories, modern fiction, fiction from our literary heritage, and books from other cultures and traditions

History:

- Britain's settlement by Anglo-Saxons, settlements, kingdoms, and village life, art and culture.

Spells & Wishes: Write a Gloucester Trickster Tale

Suitable for KS2

Bring your class to Blackfriars Priory, no better setting to explore chilling tales of magic. After an orientation game discovering the layout of the priory and the daily life of the 13th century friars, your students will enjoy an unusual literacy and drama session in these evocative surroundings. With a focus on the many stories of magicians and witches in Gloucestershire, your students will encounter shape-shifters, warriors, poets and star-readers with a dedicated Museum Inspirer. They will collaborate in groups to create a new tale of trickery set in Gloucester, write up their draft ideas in the dark and mysterious Scriptorium where friars themselves would have been studying 700 years ago, and perform their stories in the convivial, light-flooded Dormitory.

Curriculum links:

English:

- Increasing their familiarity with a wide range of books, including fairy stories, myths and legends, and retelling some of these orally.

History:

- A local history study over time tracing how several aspects of national history are reflected in the locality; can be beyond 1066.

Key Stage 3

Richard III and the Wars of the Roses

Join us in stunning Blackfriars Priory, where the fated King Richard III would himself have walked. A joyful combination of history, literacy and critical thinking skills, this session explores the divisive figure through both a potted reenactment of Shakespeare's tale, and a

deep dive into source interpretation. All areas of the beautiful building will be deployed for this rich and wide-ranging session. The students will act out highlights from Shakespeare's play in the grand and dramatic Church Hall, before going to the Scriptorium to analyse sources, the very place Friars would have been studying 700 years ago. The action-packed session finishes in the convivial Dormitory, where students will hold a debate to finally resolve the question: Was Richard III a hero or a villain?

Curriculum Links:

Understand how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources.

- History Curriculum, KS2 & KS3

A local history study over time tracing how several aspects of national history are reflected in the locality, can be beyond 1066.

- History Programme of Study, KS1 & KS2

The Wars of the Roses; the development of Church, state and society in Medieval Britain 1066-1509, religion in daily life, (parishes, monasteries, abbeys).

- History Curriculum, KS3

Increasing their familiarity with a wide range of books, including myths, legends and traditional stories, modern fiction, fiction from our literary heritage, and books from other cultures and traditions

- English Programme of Study, KS2

Key Stage 2 and 3

City Story Walk

Suitable for KS2 upwards...

Join us for the perfect route into your local history study. Your Museum Inspirer will take your class on a loop around this fascinating city, telling stories of Roman, Saxon, Medieval, Civil War, Victorian, Edwardian and modern day Gloucester! With lots of dressing up, handling objects from the Museum, role play, games and joining in, your class will get to know this city's celebrated local heroes such as Robert Raikes, Aethelflaed, Emperor Nerva, Richard III, and Beatrix Potter, as well as common folklore— expect an enraged farmer, some hungry crows and flying pear trees!

This walk is 1.3 miles long and lasts around 2 hours. It can include a visit to the Eastgate Chamber, although please note this is not wheelchair accessible.

Curriculum Links:

A local history study over time tracing how several aspects of national history are reflected in the locality:

- History Programme of Study, KS2

Pupils should become more familiar with and confident in using language in a greater variety of situations, including through drama;

Increasing their familiarity with a wide range of books, including fairy stories, myths and legends, and retelling some of these orally;

Increasing their familiarity with a wide range of books, including myths, legends and traditional stories, modern fiction, fiction from our literary heritage, and books from other cultures and traditions;

Preparing poems and play scripts to read aloud and to perform, showing understanding through intonation, tone, volume and action

- English Programme of Study, KS2

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