

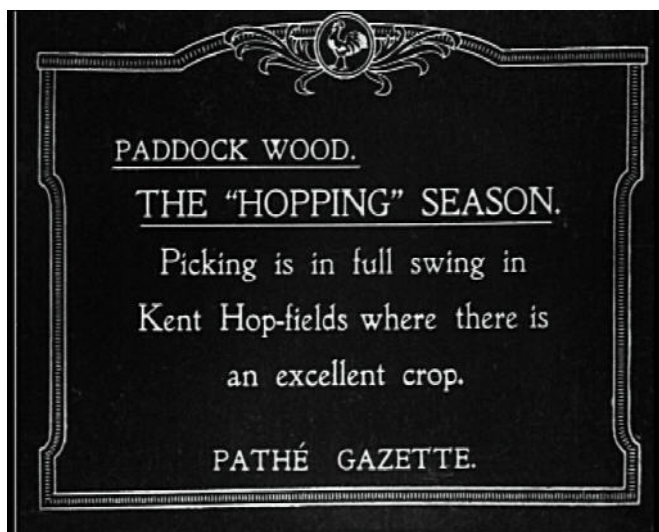
An Information sheet to support the use of the British Pathe Film Compilation "Hop Picking 1919-1955"

The Compilation can be downloaded from the same area as this starter.

British Pathe Films are free for use in Schools connected to the Kent Community Network



## Starters for Study 3 - "Hop Picking"



Photos © British Pathe

Hop Pickers at Paddock Wood above in 1919 and below in 1955.

British Pathe started its coverage of Hop Picking in Kent in 1919 and ended it in 1970 having covered it on average every 2.5 years, other than during the Second World War, in between. The high definition still pictures from the British Pathe site are only available if teachers choose to look at them before going on to view the video. View them first and add the ones you want to your basket, then choose the high definition video and add that too, all will then download together and an email will be sent to you with links to the items chosen. The downloads will be available for seven days so you have plenty of time to retrieve them. The British Pathe films quite often have blank frames or titles referring to the next subject in the newsreel. These may be edited very simply using Windows Movie Maker (free with latest Windows XP). Alternatively most movie editing software will do the job. A good activity for pupils is to get them to edit some of the films themselves, there are several that are made up of unshown and uncut footage, so the pupils can make a story board using the still pictures and cut the movie to match, adding titles and even a sound track as they go.

On the same site as this starter you can download an edited short set of British Pathe films we have called "Hop Picking 1919-1955" to give an easy introduction to this mass of material. It begins with a relatively late film, narrated by Eamon Andrews that gives a good overview of the work of the hop pickers. There are 29 films in the British Pathe archives about hop picking and most are really useful. HOP PICKERS 28/10/1946 is a lovely black and white film showing life on a Kent farm.



Photo: British Pathe



Photo: British Pathe

### Information:

Studying Hop Picking is a good way to get pupils working with the GIS mapping package InfoMapper, which has an area for each pupil to publish and share their work. See <http://www.segfl.org.uk/projects/view.php?id=42> and look also at <http://www.segfl.org.uk/casestudies/view.php?id=100> for some case studies of possible uses.

Exploring the history of hop Picking supports History National Curriculum Levels 1 to 6 in Use of Sources (1 to 6) and Interpretation.(3 to 6). It also has an impact on Literacy, Numeracy and Geography. Using the Pathe films via a computer helps meet the Statutory Requirements for the use of ICT in History at Key Stages 2 in Historical Enquiry and at Key Stage 3 in Historical Enquiry, Organisation and Communication.

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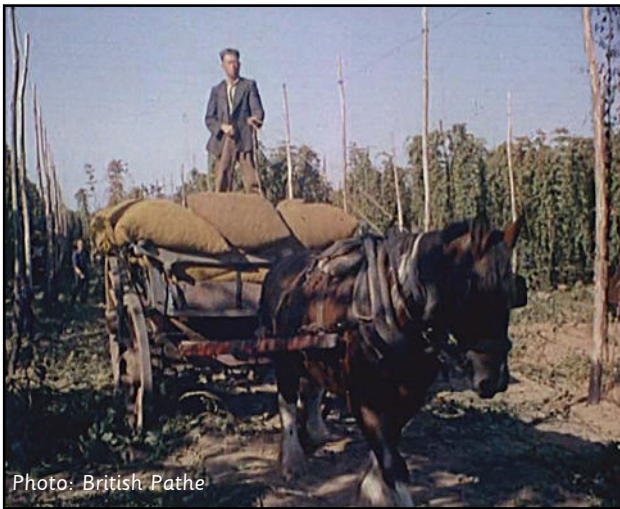
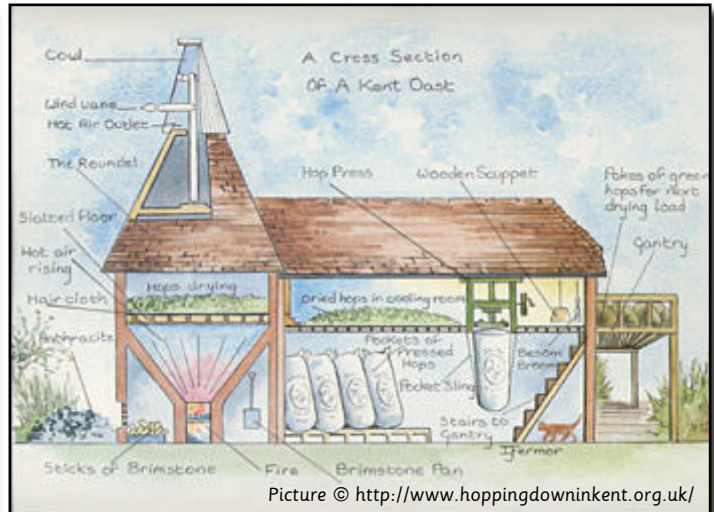


Photo: British Pathe



Picture © <http://www.hoppingdownkent.org.uk/>

The left hand picture shows a horse and cart in use moving the pokes (the sacks used to move the hops) to the oasthouses in 1955. The right hand picture shows a diagram of how an oast house works to dry the hops. The Hop Farm at Paddock Wood still has its oasthouses and school visits can be arranged. See the next page for details. The photos down the right of the page show (top to bottom) a child in the fields in 1919, East Enders arriving at Paddock Wood and women preparing bedding outside their huts on the farm.

Much of the hard work on this topic has been done for teachers by the Museum of Kent Life and the South East Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (SEMLAC), in consultation with local schools. The website: <http://www.hoppingdownkent.org.uk/> is full of useful facts, ideas for teaching and learning, pictures, maps and games.

Another useful website is that of the National Hop Association of England: <http://www.hops.co.uk/sectionone/KentHistory.htm> This gives the factual history of the use of hops in beer making. It has a useful description of the process of hop-picking, the role of the East Enders and a good description of their living as well as working conditions. The language may need some moderation for some pupils. The pioneering work done by Egerton School is shown at [http://www.egerton.kent.sch.uk/Hop\\_Picking.htm](http://www.egerton.kent.sch.uk/Hop_Picking.htm) Egerton School also have a freely downloadable Teachers' Resource Pack which is excellent. Go to this url and click on the link at the bottom of the page [http://www.egerton.kent.sch.uk/Hop\\_Picking.htm&teachersresource](http://www.egerton.kent.sch.uk/Hop_Picking.htm&teachersresource) the file is a Zip file and needs decompressing. See your ICT co-ordinator if you have any trouble opening it. Once open the file will save hours of teacher time. It even has pre-written Programmes of Study and Medium Term Plans!

### Reference Book

**Hops and Hop Picking** Richard Filmer £5.99 ISBN 0 85263 617 2 (History in Camera 6) 80 pp, 98 ills.

Hops was once banned from being used in beer brewing. It is not the main ingredient of beer, but turns what otherwise would be a thick brown ale into the bright beer we see today. It also acts as a preservative for the beer,



Photo: British Pathe



Photo: British Pathe



Photo: British Pathe

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## Starters for Study 3 - "Hop Picking" Visits



**The Museum of Kent Life** Cobtree, Lock Lane, Sandling, Maidstone, Kent ME14 3AU Tel.01622 763936 or see <http://www.museum-kentlife.co.uk/> Pupils can have a chance to pick hops themselves and see the last traditionally fired oast house in operation. In order to do so visit the Museum during the annual Hop Picking Festival in September each year, though visits are possible at other times. The Museum hosts the "Hopping Down in Kent" website and has the best facilities to explore hops and hop picking in the county. Look also at their Hands on History programme which provides boxes of real and replica artefacts for loan to schools. Educational Packs for Keystage 1 and 2 are free on request or via the website. The Museum even offers Risk Assessment Guidelines to teachers.

**The Hop Farm, Paddock Wood** has facilities including Museums, play areas, the Animal Farm and Shire Horses. Ring 01622 872068 or email on [schools@thehopfarm.co.uk](mailto:schools@thehopfarm.co.uk) see <http://www.thehopfarm.co.uk>

**Essentially Hops** Chalkpit Farm, School Lane, Bekesbourne, CT4 5EU in East Kent. Hops are still farmed here though a fire in 1996 means that the oast house, though still present as a private house, can no longer be visited. There is a shop and hop bines, small pieces of hops and hop related products can be purchased for classroom use. Tel.01227 830666 for more information. Essentially Hops is a valuable source of materials for teachers rather than a visit venue.

**Tenterden & District Museum** Station Rd, Tenterden. TN30 6NH Telephone 01580 764310 is run entirely by volunteers and opens, Tuesday to Sunday, from Easter to Mid-October each year. It has a whole room based on Hop Picking. A 19th century hop press, hop growing, and harvesting is explored. Volunteers offer exclusive sessions for pre-booked school parties. The Kent and East Sussex Railway is nearby and features in the 1950 British Pathe rushes of hop pickers going from London Bridge to Bodiam. Search the British Pathe site using the search word "Bodiam" and you will find a set of unedited footage ideal as a pupil editing project. Some of the film is very badly exposed and pupils may decide not to use it; choice is an important part of film work.

Colour pictures of 'hoppers' in 1950, the lady on the left has been picking for 69 years. Below a train brings Hop Pickers to Bodiam Station to work the hop garden at Udiham.



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