



ACTIVITY PLAN – SESSION 1

Session	1
Theme	Test Match activity
Title	About The Ashes
Curriculum area	Literacy, Humanities

Where the session has come from...

The group has done a few introductory sessions to give initial information about the game of cricket.

This could be the initial activity, before the introductory activities. This way round it may be possible to unravel the story of 'The Ashes' by 'solving the mystery' of 'What do we have here?'

Choice is yours!

Learning objectives

To interpret information of different sources.

To plan and talk within role play.

Room layout and preparation

Class should be in small groups of about 4 in each group.

Starter activity

Show the first image on the presentation 'What have we here' and ask anyone to raise their hand if they know what this is. Ask them not to say anything if they do know, some may have knowledge of it. In that case, these pupils can support/help lead the session.

Create a concept map or record information on a large piece of sugar paper using felt pens.

At the end of the work the pupils can grab and add their new gained knowledge to the concept map.

Main activity

Have a box delivered to the class from the office / reception. Inside the box is a picture of 'The Ashes Urn'. Say this has been presented at an Auction room ready for auction. Ask the groups to come up with some ideas as to what this is? How is it used? How old is it? Who owns it? Why is it in the Auction Room? Who has it been presented to? Why?

Ask the pupils to list the type of questions they would like the answers to, this might assist them to answer some of their questions up front.

Load up the 'What have we here' presentation.

Encourage pupils to take notes as this progresses.

The presentation is about finding out the history of this object, the questions historians would ask to uncover the story behind the object.

After a few ideas, go through the presentation to reveal the different 'sources' and pause for the small groups to ask questions that are asked throughout the presentation.

The sources:

- The inscription.
- Newspaper reports.
- Web research items on vocabulary etc.
- Quotes from Ivo Bligh (later Lord Danley).
- Article in British press on 1882 The Ashes.

As sources are discussed there will be various ideas about how The Ashes came to be. To clarify the story, show the video recorded by pupils to explain the idea behind The Ashes, on www.learningbeyondtheboundary.co.uk and follow links to Ashes Schools Challenge extra resources.

Now in groups of 3 we are looking for a radio interview with either...

- a. The person who found the urn and brought it to the auction room bring interviewed.
- b. The captains of the Test Match that England lost in 1882, W. Murdoch, the winning Australian captain, and A. Hornby, the losing England captain.

Information to give to the pupils...

It was August 29th 1882.

It was a low scoring match (see the presentation for the scores). England had never lost a game playing at home.

H. Massie and W. Murdoch were the highest scoring batters.

For England even W.G. Grace, a legendary batter, couldn't score enough runs to help beat Australia.

Australia won by only 7 runs.

Record the interviews using tablet technology, voice recorders on computer. Pupils could then write a piece of poetry on The Ashes. Examples could be Haiku, Chinquapin, Acrostic – or other types of their choosing.

Opportunities for differentiation

This is best done in mixed ability groupings to allow learning from peers.

Where is this session leading...

The session needs to end with pupils having an understanding of The Ashes as a sporting fixture between England and Australia – this provides the context for the rest of the pack.

Literacy skills developed

Speaking and listening AF3 Talking within in role play.



ASHES
SCHOOLS
CHALLENGE

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ACTIVITY



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WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?

A trail of evidence



ORIGINAL SOURCE

- We have just received this photo.
- What are your first impressions of it?
- How would you describe it?
- What do you think it is made from?
- How big do you think it is?
- What questions do we need to ask to find out what it is?





FURTHER EVIDENCE

We have now received the object itself and have further details

- It is made from terracotta and is about six inches (150mm) tall and may originally have been a perfume jar.
- What questions do you ask now to find out more about it?
- What is written on it?





What does the writing say?

*When Ivo goes back with the urn, the urn;
Studds, Steel, Read and Tylecote return, return;
The welkin will ring loud,
The great crowd will feel proud,
Seeing Barlow and Bates with the urn, the urn;
And the rest coming home with the urn.*



What is an urn?

- An urn is a container, sometimes a vase.
- A cremation urn contains The Ashes of someone.



Who are the people mentioned?

- Studds, Steel, Read and Tylecote were all English cricket players as were Barlow and Bates.
- Ivo Bligh is also an English cricketer.

Why would Ivo go back with the Urn?



What does welkin mean?

- Welkin is a verb.
- Example of use: make the welkin ring.
- To make a loud noise.
- To celebrate or revel.



Why was Ivo presented with this Urn?

- Englishman, Ivo Bligh was presented with this in Melbourne saying 'after the third match some Melbourne ladies put some ashes into a small urn and gave them to me as captain of the English Eleven'.

What do we use Urns for?



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Whose Ashes do you think had been put into the urn?

Why had Ivo Bligh travelled to Australia to regain?



More of that quote from Bligh reveals further information.

- When in the autumn (of 1882) the English Eleven went to Australia it was said that they had come to Australia to “fetch” The Ashes. England won two out of the three matches played against Murdoch’s Australian Eleven, and after the third match some Melbourne ladies put some ashes into a small urn and gave them to me as captain of the English Eleven.”

Something must have happened before that to send Bligh and England to Australia to ‘fetch The Ashes’.

What happened in 1882 in England with Ivo Bligh?



Looking back at the records of matches played between England and Australia, reveal this game.

England v Australia

Kennington Oval, London
28th and 29th August 1882.

Australia won the toss and decided to bat.

Australia 1st Innings 63 runs.

England 1st Innings 101 runs (A lead of 38 runs).

Australia 2nd innings 122 runs (England needed 85 runs to win).

England 2nd Innings 78 runs.

England lost the game by 7 runs.



This was the only game England and Australia played in England in 1882, what was the big deal about the result?

What do these two bits of evidence suggest?

Who, or now, what had died on this day?



England's supremacy in the cricket-field which expired on the 29th day of August, at the Oval.

Cricket Weekly 1882



Why was this ‘The Death of English cricket’?

- England had been playing cricket against Australia since 1877 and had never lost playing in England.
- Australia travelled to England in 1882 and won a game – this prompted journalists pronounce the game ‘The Death of English Cricket’.
- England went to Australia to ‘fetch The Ashes back’ and so the ashes of a cricket bail was placed into this tiny urn and presented to Ivo Bligh, the England captain, as a symbol of England regaining ‘The Ashes of English cricket’.