

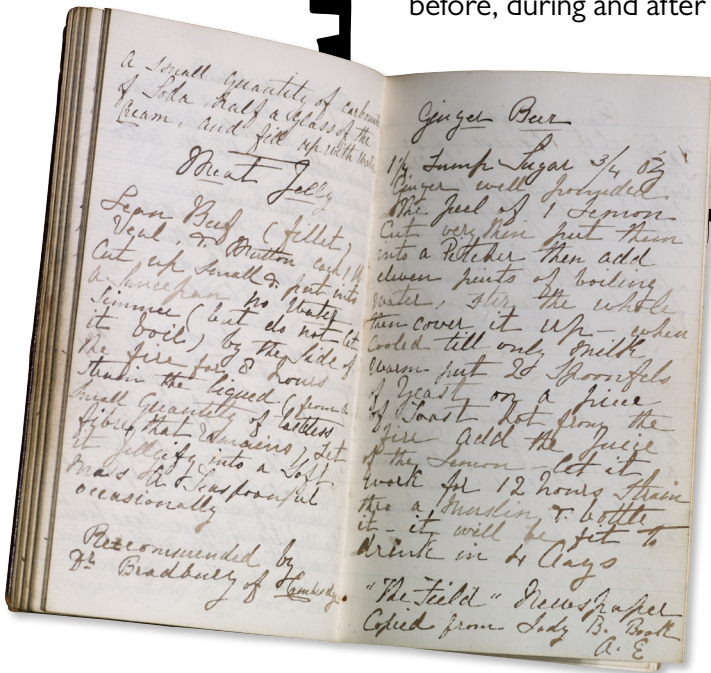
ENGLISH HERITAGE
EDUCATION

KS1 & KS2

TEACHERS' ACTIVITY IDEAS

Audley End House and Gardens

This resource will help teachers plan a visit to Audley End House and Gardens. Use these activity ideas before, during and after your visit to help pupils discover more about Audley End.



Get in touch with our Education Bookings Team:

- ☎ 0370 333 0606
- ✉ bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk
- ➔ <https://bookings.english-heritage.org.uk/education>

Don't forget to download our **Hazard Information Sheets** to help with planning.

Share your visit with us on Twitter [@EHEducation](https://twitter.com/EHEducation)

Step into England's story

TOP 5 ACTIVITIES

VIDEO RESEARCHERS

IN THE CLASSROOM

Recommended For

KSI and KS2
(History, English,
Design and Technology)

Learning Objectives

- Develop independent research skills, using reliable sources of information.
- Gather information about the role of the Victorian cook at Audley End, and her book of recipes.



Preview of 'Who was Mrs Crocombe? Behind the scenes of The Victorian Way', which you and your class can watch on YouTube to find out about the role of a Victorian cook at Audley End.

ACTIVITY 1

Summary

Experts at English Heritage have produced lots of fun and informative videos about Avis Crocombe, the cook at Audley End in the 1880s, and her book of Victorian recipes. You can find these videos on the English Heritage YouTube channel.

We suggest you start by watching this video to find out who the real Mrs Crocombe was:

1. **Who was Mrs Crocombe? Behind the scenes of The Victorian Way** (2 min 45 sec) [youtu.be/y8sHgBFWHbQ]

Then watch Mrs Crocombe cooking a selection of her Victorian recipes in the videos below:

2. **How to Make Biscuits – The Victorian Way** (2 min 57 sec) [youtu.be/IRI9LHBOpk0]

3. **How to Make Gingerbread – The Victorian Way** (3 min 49 sec) [youtu.be/HeL5rk-UnjM]

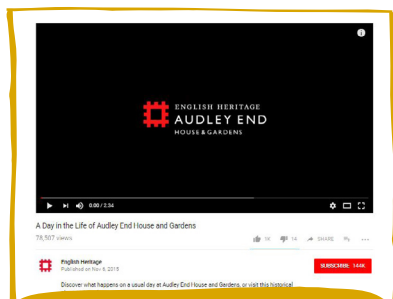
4. **How to Make Pancakes – The Victorian Way** (3 min 42 sec) [youtu.be/tHvpD-fy2c0]

5. **How to Make Curry – The Victorian Way** (4 min 03 sec) [youtu.be/0WTyHiMvD7Y]

Refer to sources 10 and 11 in the Sources section of the Teachers' Resource Pack for more information on the life of a Victorian cook at Audley End.

Pick one of the videos to watch as a group. Use this as inspiration for pupils to create their own cookery book recipe, including a drawing of the completed dish.

ACTIVITY 1 continued



Preview of 'A Day In The Life Of Audley End House And Gardens', which shows the care taken by English Heritage to conserve Audley End and open it to visitors.

MORE LEARNING IDEAS

Watch the English Heritage YouTube video '**A Day in the Life of Audley End House and Gardens**' (2 min 35 sec) [youtube.com/watch?v=U7yLO7rlkeI] and ask pupils to make a list of the activities they see happening in the video. Then split the activities into those which would only take place today at Audley End with English Heritage, those which would have taken place in Victorian times when Audley End was owned by Lord Braybrooke, and those which could have happened in both.

ACTIVITY 2

Recommended For

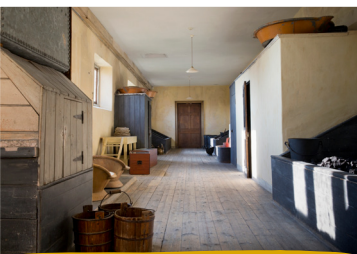
KS1 and KS2
(History)

Learning Objectives

- Explore the interactive Nursery and Coal Gallery and use observational skills to make deductions.
- Learn more about the 'hidden' stories of life for children and Victorian servants at Audley End.



The Nursery is an interactive space exploring the lives of the eight Braybrooke children who lived at Audley End.



The Coal Gallery is an interactive space exploring the hard daily routine of Victorian servants.

Summary

This activity is based on a ratio of 30 pupils to 5 adults, with pupils and adults split into two groups. It might be helpful to assign these groups before entering the house.

During your visit to the house, go up to the second floor. Send group 1 to the Nursery to investigate the eight Braybrooke children who lived there, and group 2 to explore the life of Victorian servants in the Coal Gallery. These are interactive areas where pupils can touch and smell objects that bring these stories to life. After 10 minutes, swap the groups over so they have the chance to explore both spaces.

Ask each group to answer the following questions:

Nursery

1. What Victorian toys can you find? Are there any we still play with today?

HELPFUL HINT: encourage pupils to handle toys as they find them.

2. What else was the Nursery used for, besides playtime?

HELPFUL HINT: look at the table set for afternoon tea and educational books in the bookcase.

Coal Gallery

1. What types of objects are stored in the cupboards?

HELPFUL HINT: encourage pupils to open cupboard doors and drawers.

2. What was the coal used for?

HELPFUL HINT: this coal was deliberately stored here to light fires and heat water only on the top two floors.

Once pupils have explored both spaces, bring them back together to share their learning.

MORE LEARNING IDEAS

We would encourage you to visit the Service Wing to explore what life was like for Victorian servants on a busy country estate. In particular, the Kitchen, Pastry Larder and Cook's Room link back to Activity 1 and provide context for where a Victorian cook would have prepared menus and cooked recipes.

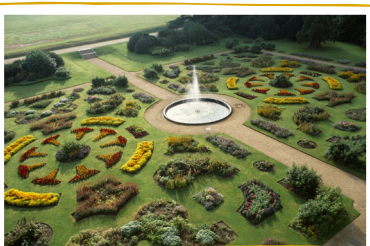
ACTIVITY 3

Recommended For

KS1 and KS2
(Biology, History)

Learning Objectives

- Explore the different species of trees found at Audley End and their historical significance.
- Understand more about how and why the landscape and gardens were created at Audley End.



Looking down on the parterre garden at Audley End from the house.



The kitchen garden at Audley End in August.

Summary

Before your visit, watch this video to see an overview of the landscape and gardens at Audley End.

Postcard from Audley End House and Gardens (0 min 57 sec)
[youtube.com/watch?v=ZA6aiHYueYk]

Ask pupils to identify different types of outdoor spaces or structures seen in the video, for example bridges, fountains, trees, wide open grassland, ponds, planted beds.

Refer to sources 2–5 in the Sources section of the Teachers' Resource Pack for more information on the development of the gardens and landscape at Audley End.

The features now visible in the garden are largely the work of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, commissioned in 1763 and 1764 by Sir John Griffin Griffin to refashion the garden into a more natural style. 'Capability' Brown's design transformed the formal appearance that Thomas Howard, 1st Earl of Suffolk, created in the Jacobean period.

In the 19th century, a parterre garden (a formal garden with symmetrical patterned flower beds, separated by pathways), a pond garden and an expanded kitchen garden were added. During the Victorian period, more varieties of fruits and vegetables were grown and flowers were cut for elaborate decorations in the house. Spaces for organised games were added, including a cricket pitch in front of the mansion in 1842. The garden was designed to impress visitors with its variety of plants, vistas and grand buildings.

During your visit, use the teacher and pupil tree trail maps provided on the next pages to explore the landscape and gardens of Audley End through some of its special trees. Print the trail in colour as A4 double-sided, and select 'flip on short edge'.

You can choose to do the whole route (taking around 1 hour 15 minutes to complete) or just a section of it.

MORE LEARNING IDEAS

If your school has open space or a garden, use this for pupils to make their own map of the area and label it with key features. They can use the tree trail map as an example. Alternatively, find an aerial view of a garden or park nearby and use this as the basis to create a map.

AUDLEY END TREE TRAIL

Use this map and supporting information to facilitate discussion with your pupils as they follow the tree trail. The trail will take around 1 hour 15 minutes to walk. If you don't have time for the whole trail, it divides into smaller sections depending on your preferred location.

1. CEDAR OF LEBANON

(Latin name: *Cedrus libani*)

This tree was planted between 1763 and 1764, when the famous gardener Lancelot 'Capability' Brown was working at Audley End. The owner of Audley End at that time, Sir John Griffin Griffin, had this tree planted as part of a formal flower garden for his wife.

Where is it? Looking at the front of the house, it's on the right-hand side.

2. COMMON LIME

(Latin name: *Tilia x europaea*)

Lime trees are often used at country houses like Audley End to make grand avenues (straight lines) of trees to impress visitors. They have sweet-smelling pale green flowers in spring that bees and insects love.

Where are they? Beside the house on the right-hand side, near the brick wall. Look for two straight rows of trees.

3. HOWARD OAK

(Latin name: *Quercus x audleyensis*)

This is a very rare hybrid tree (thought to be a cross between a Holm Oak and a Sessile Oak). In autumn, some leaves turn brown and drop, but others stay green. It was planted in the late 1700s and is named for Thomas Howard, the owner who built the grand Jacobean house at Audley End.

Where is it? Behind the house between the avenue of Common Limes and the house itself.

4. HORSE CHESTNUT

(Latin name: *Aesculus hippocastanum*)

These trees can grow up to 40m, and can live for up to 300 years. At Audley End, some have grown so large that their branches touch the ground. These branches have rooted and are forming a surrounding ring of smaller trees.

Where is it? Behind the house, between the Howard Oak and the Cedar of Lebanon.

5. WELLINGTONIA

(Latin name: *Sequoiadendron giganteum*)

This tree is called a Redwood and was brought to Britain from California by a Victorian plant hunter named William Lobb. The tallest Redwood in the world is in California and measures 95m. The name Wellingtonia was created to remember the Duke of Wellington, who defeated Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.

Where is it? Behind the house, to the left of the Parterre Garden.

6. TULIP TREE

(Latin name: *Liriodendron tulipifera*)

Tulip trees were introduced to Britain from North America by John Tradescant the Younger in the mid-17th century. In June and July, the tree is covered with yellow tulip-shaped flowers. This particular tree is about 100 years old.

Where is it? In the parkland at the front of the house, near the cloud hedge and path to the Kitchen Garden.

7. YEWE

(Latin name: *Taxus baccata*)

At Audley End, Yew can be seen as large trees (in the Elysian Garden where you are on the trail) or as clipped hedging (at the front of the house). They can live up to 600 years and have beautiful red bark. The Yew in the Elysian Garden were planted in the 1780s as part of an exotic flower garden.

Where are they? On the edges of the path running around the Elysian Garden.

8. LONDON PLANE

(Latin name: *Platanus x hispanica*)

This tree was also planted in the Elysian Garden as part of the exotic flower garden in the 1780s. It can grow up to 35m tall, and is the most common tree found in London. It is often planted in polluted urban areas and sometimes sheds its scaly bark and grows a new one to cope with these conditions.

Where is it? Standing alone on the lawn between the Tea House Bridge and the Cascade.

9. MULBERRY

(Latin name: *Morus nigra*)

Mulberry trees have been grown in Britain since the Roman occupation, and Mulberry leaves were used by the Romans to treat mouth, trachea and lung diseases. This tree produces very dark red fruits that look like stretched blackberries. They are sweet-tasting and can be eaten by humans.

Where is it? On the lawn in the Bothy Garden, behind the Vine House.

10. APPLE AND PEAR TREES

(various)

There are 150 different varieties (types) of apples in the Kitchen Garden, and 70 varieties of pears. Look at the different name labels for the trees and they will tell you when each variety was first grown. At Audley End, there is a special weekend to celebrate when the apples and pears are harvested, and you can make your own juice to taste.

Where are they? Around the plots in the Kitchen Garden.

AUDLEY END TREE TRAIL



3



4

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5



6



7



2



1



START

KEY

- A Polish Memorial
- B Mount Garden
- C Parterre Garden
- D Elysian Garden
- E Tea House Bridge
- F Cascade
- G Kitchen Garden
- H Vine House
- J Stable Block



8

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9



10

AUDLEY END TREE TRAIL

Use this map to discover the special trees at Audley End by following the trail. The trail will take around 1 hour 15 minutes to walk. If you don't have time for the whole trail, you can do just a part of it.

1. CEDAR OF LEBANON

When he owned Audley End, Sir John Griffin Griffin had this tree planted in around 1763 as part of a garden for his wife.

WHERE IS IT? Looking at the front of the house, it's on the right-hand side.

DID YOU FIND IT?

2. COMMON LIME

Lime trees are often used at country houses like Audley End to make grand avenues (straight lines) of trees to impress visitors.

WHERE ARE THEY? Beside the house on the right-hand side, near the brick wall. Look for two straight rows of trees.

DID YOU FIND THEM?

3. HOWARD OAK

This is a very rare tree because it is a mixture of two different types of oak. It was named after Thomas Howard, the owner who built the grand Jacobean house at Audley End.

WHERE IS IT? Behind the house between the avenue of Common Limes and the house itself.

DID YOU FIND IT?

4. HORSE CHESTNUT

The conkers made by horse chestnuts in autumn are seeds. The first recorded game of conkers took place on the Isle of Wight in 1848.

WHERE IS IT? Behind the house, between the Howard Oak and the Cedar of Lebanon.

DID YOU FIND IT?

5. WELLINGTONIA

This tree is called a Redwood and was brought to Britain from California by a Victorian plant hunter called William Lobb. The tallest Redwood in the world measures 95m.

WHERE IS IT? Behind the house, to the left of the Parterre Garden.

DID YOU FIND IT?

6. TULIP TREE

This tree gets its name from the yellow tulip-shaped flowers it grows in June and July. This particular tree is about 100 years old.

WHERE IS IT? In the parkland at the front of the house, near the cloud hedge and path to the Kitchen Garden.

DID YOU FIND IT?

7. YEW

At Audley End, Yew can be seen as large trees (in the Elysian Garden where you are on the trail) or as clipped hedging (at the front of the house). They can live up to 600 years and have beautiful red bark.

WHERE ARE THEY? On the edges of the path running around the Elysian Garden.

DID YOU FIND THEM?

8. LONDON PLANE

There are lots of these trees in London. They sometimes shed their scaly bark and grow new ones, like a snake shedding a skin.

WHERE IS IT? Standing alone on the lawn between the Tea House Bridge and the Cascade.

DID YOU FIND IT?

9. MULBERRY

Mulberry trees have been grown in Britain since Roman times. The tree makes sweet, dark red fruits that can be eaten by humans, but only if the birds don't eat them first.

WHERE IS IT? On the lawn in the Bothy Garden, behind the Vine House.

DID YOU FIND IT?

10. APPLE AND PEAR TREES

There are 150 different varieties (types) of apples in the Kitchen Garden, and 70 varieties of pears. Look at the different name labels for the trees and they will tell you when each variety was first grown.

WHERE ARE THEY? Around the plots in the Kitchen Garden.

DID YOU FIND THEM?

AUDLEY END TREE TRAIL



3



4

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5



6



7



2



1



8

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9



10

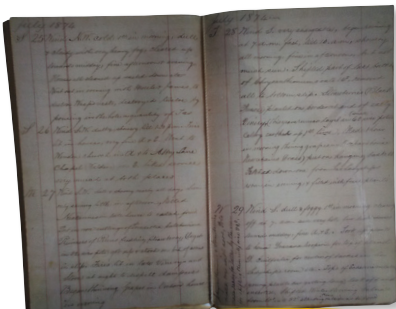
ACTIVITY 4

Recommended For

KSI and KS2
(History, English)

Learning Objectives

- Learn more about the hierarchy of staff in a Victorian kitchen garden team.
- Understand how historians use different sources of information to build evidence about life in Victorian Britain.



Under-gardener William Cresswell's diary from 1874.

Summary

Walk your pupils down to the kitchen garden, and find the bothy (a small cottage) behind the Vine House.

The bothy rooms were built around 1811 to provide accommodation for the unmarried garden apprentices and under-gardeners (young men hoping to become head gardeners, who moved frequently to gain experience). This suite of rooms has a kitchen/living room and two bedrooms which were probably considered quite comfortable in the Victorian period. The bedroom timber floors, wooden panelling on the external walls, fittings for blinds in the windows and central heating (using cast iron pipes from the nearby boiler) were all luxuries.

Explain to pupils that, in Victorian times, gardening was seen as a good career choice. Garden apprentices were expected to have studied geometry and land surveying, have a good knowledge of botany and read books about gardening in their spare time. What type of gardener you were, and how much you got paid, depended on what knowledge, skills and experience you had.

GOOD GARDENER QUIZ

During your visit, play the Good Gardener Quiz (on the next page) with your pupils to find out about the different types of Victorian kitchen gardeners. This quiz can be done as individuals or as a group making choices as a team.

In the 1870s, two under-gardeners called William Cresswell and James Bedgedood lived in the bothy. William Cresswell was 22 when he worked at Audley End between March and September 1874. He kept a diary (refer to sources 8 and 9 in the Sources section of the Teachers' Resource Pack) which records the life of a professional working gardener, describing weather conditions, the tasks he undertook each day, the types of plants found in the garden and rare insights into life in the bothy. One entry talks about how William 'received from Mr Bryan knives and forks, table spoons, quart saucepan etc', so it seems meals were prepared on the iron range in the bothy.

ACTIVITY 4 continued

DIARY DETECTIVES

Let pupils explore the bothy in small groups (making sure they see the diary).

Uses sources 8 and 9 (the diary photograph and entry transcriptions) in the Sources section of the Teachers' Resource Pack, and choose a pupil to read aloud a diary entry. If the language is too difficult, ask a supporting adult to help. Discuss as a group what that entry tells us about life as a Victorian gardener, and how the diary can be used by historians as a source of information.

Ask pupils to look at the diary text and identify any fruits or vegetables mentioned. Which ones have they heard of or eaten themselves? Discuss why growing produce was so important for a grand Victorian country house, and the relationship between gardeners and the kitchen staff.

MORE LEARNING IDEAS

Back in the classroom, pupils can create individual diaries for a week to record changes in weather and surroundings during their journeys to school. If your school has outdoor space or a garden, pupils can create a class diary to observe seasonal changes in the school grounds and map these onto a timeline in the classroom showing the major changes in a garden throughout the year.

GOOD GARDENER QUIZ

START HERE:

Are you willing to work long hours outside?

N

No Gardener

You're not cut out to be a Victorian gardener. It's tough work, the hours are long and you work 313 days a year with only Sundays off.

William's diary says:

'Sat 6th June
At work till dark watering etc.'

Y

Do you have a good knowledge of botany (plants) and geometry (mathematics about space and shapes)?

N

Do you have practical knowledge of gardening, through years of working in gardens?

Y

Garden Labourer

(Daily wage 2 shillings 2d = 11p today).

You help move garden supplies and equipment, prepare the ground, and help with planting out, watering and weeding.

William's diary says:

'Wed 20th May
Seed beds in kitchen garden well watered.'

Y

Do you read books about gardening in your own time?

Y

Are you married, with lots of gardening experience?

N

Under-Gardener

(Daily wage 2 shillings 8d = 13p to-day).

If you keep working hard, you hope to become a head gardener. As you're unmarried you can move around to different places for work to get lots of experience.

William's diary says:

'Mon 31st August
Received from Mr Bryan [Head Gardener] 3.9s 4d for month's wages, also notice to leave at end of next month.'

William left Audley End in September 1874 and got a new job at Cambridge Botanic Garden.

N

Y

Garden Apprentice

(Daily wage 8d = 3.3p today).

You're showing promise to become an under-gardener soon if you do a bit of extra homework and read up on gardening techniques.

William's diary says:

'Tues 31st March
Fruit trees in Orchard House ... dusted with snuff tobacco powder etc to kill flies.'

Head Gardener

(Daily wage 4 shillings = 21p today).

You are a high-status manager of all the garden staff.

William's diary says:

'Sat 7th March
Left Forest Hill for Lord Braybrooke's Audley End 2.45 train ... Looked over houses with Mr Bryan, Head Gardener.'

This was William's first day at Audley End.

ACTIVITY 5

Recommended For

KS1 and KS2
(History, Biology, Maths, Art)

Learning Objectives

- Understand how and why geometric designs were used to create the parterre garden at Audley End.
- Use artistic skills to design geometric patterns.
- Understand what seeds need in order to grow.



An aerial view of the parterre garden's geometric design at Audley End.

Summary

In 1832 William Sawrey Gilpin, a fashionable garden designer, advised on the formal geometric parterre at Audley End. The design was taken from an 18th-century garden pattern book. The intricate patterns created by the plant beds could be admired from the first-floor windows of the house. Maintaining such a garden was labour-intensive though, and it was grassed over in the mid-20th century. English Heritage excavated the garden and restored it to its original design between 1985 and 1993.

Create a small-scale version of the Audley End parterre with pupils by growing cress seeds. Prepare a plastic tray and line it with wet kitchen roll, and then a layer of wet cotton wool. To make the geometric garden pattern either print and cut out the template provided on the next page (ideally on light card) or ask pupils to design their own geometric patterns and use these to create new templates. Remember to only cut out the geometric shapes.

Lay the chosen template on top of the wet cotton wool, and sprinkle cress seeds into the cut-out shapes. Gently press down the cress seeds and sprinkle them with water. You can either leave the template on top of the cotton wool or carefully peel it off. Leave your plastic tray somewhere warm and sunny like a windowsill, and sprinkle with water every day. The cress should start to sprout within two days and will then grow through the cut-out shapes to create a geometric pattern.

MORE LEARNING IDEAS

When the parterre at Audley End was restored, gardeners were careful to replant it as it was originally designed, using varieties of plants available in the 1830s. The beds are planted with roses, herbaceous flowers and annuals. The flowers change seasonally and include tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, primroses and forget-me-nots.

Pick one of these plants for pupils to sketch. This could also be used as a study for labelling the parts of a flower.

GEOMETRIC PARTERRE GARDEN DESIGN TEMPLATE

