



KS1 & KS2

## PUPIL ACTIVITY SHEETS

# Audley End House and Gardens

This resource will help primary school pupils step into the story of Audley End House and Gardens. Use this information to take your pupils on a self-led tour and help them discover the hidden stories of Audley End.

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Step into England's story

# AUDLEY END HOUSE SITE TOUR

DISCOVER OUR TOP  
THINGS TO SEE

See if you can find all of these things and complete each challenge. Younger pupils can use the tick list at the back while their teacher guides them around. Older pupils may want to lead their own learning in small groups.

Can't find your way? Use the map on page 7 or ask Room Stewards in the house who will direct you.



## 1 PAINTING OF MARGARET AUDLEY

There are many paintings in the Great Hall, including portraits of past owners. **Find** the painting of Margaret Audley, holding a dress tassel in her hand. Margaret inherited the Audley End estate from her father, and she held an important position at the royal court.

**WHERE IS IT?**  
In the Great Hall, hanging on the wall to the left of the fireplace.

DID YOU  
FIND IT?



A portrait of Margaret Audley, painted by Hans Eworth in 1562. From a private collection on display at Audley End House, Essex.

## DID YOU KNOW?



According to family tradition, the Great Hall was used by local children for their school Christmas lunches. There was a huge Christmas tree in the corner, decorated with real candles.

## CHALLENGE TIME!



This room was designed to impress visitors. **Discuss** with your group what impresses you as a guest today.



## 2 SILVER TEAPOT

In the 1820s this room became a Saloon (sitting room) for the Braybrooke family to relax, and drink tea.

**Find** the silver teapot – you can pick it up. For the Georgians, drinking tea was a high status activity. The tea was transported here from China or India, and kept in a locked tea chest.

 **WHERE IS IT?**  
In the Saloon, on the table by the window.

**DID YOU FIND IT?**

### DID YOU KNOW?

The ottoman (round couch) in this room was perfect for Victorian ladies and their wide skirts. They couldn't easily sit in other chairs.



### CHALLENGE TIME!

**Look up** at the Jacobean ceiling.  
**Spot** the sea monsters, mermaids and ships.



## 3 OLD RED LEATHER BOOKS

This was the 3rd Lord Braybrooke's Library. It contains over 8,000 books. The collection was started by Sir John Griffin Griffin. **Look** at the photograph of the oldest books, which have red and gold leather covers.

 **WHERE ARE THEY?**  
In the Library bookcases.

**DID YOU FIND THEM?**



### DID YOU KNOW?

There is one of the very first dictionaries ever made in this library.



### CHALLENGE TIME!

**Find** some of the red and gold books.  
**Spot** the pattern on their spines.





## 4 PINEAPPLE

The Dining Room was used for dinner parties. Many fruits and vegetables eaten at dinner were grown at Audley End. **Find** the pineapple. This was a sign of great wealth because pineapples were very difficult to grow in Britain.

 **WHERE IS IT?**  
In the Dining Room, on the dining table.

**DID YOU FIND IT?**

### DID YOU KNOW?



Some people 'hired' a pineapple to display on the dinner table to show off.

### CHALLENGE TIME!



**Discuss** why it is easier to get fruits like pineapples today.

## 5 TAXIDERMY GREAT BUSTARD BIRD

This corridor is full of the 4th Lord Braybrooke's natural history collection. He was often ill, so making this collection became his hobby.

The animals and birds are real but dead – they are stuffed to look realistic. This is called taxidermy. **Find** the Great Bustard.

 **WHERE IS IT?**  
In the North Lobby after walking through the Picture Gallery.

**DID YOU FIND IT?**



### DID YOU KNOW?

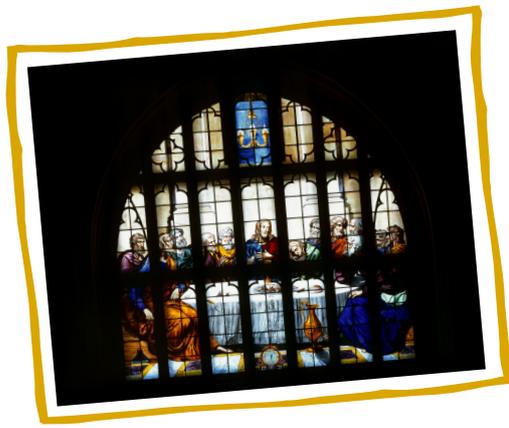


There are over 1,700 birds in this taxidermy collection.

### CHALLENGE TIME!



**Find** your favourite animal or bird. **Why** do you like it?



## 6 CHAPEL: PAINTED GLASS WINDOWS

The Chapel was used by the Braybrooke family for morning prayers.

**Find** the painted glass windows. The large altar window at the end of the Chapel shows Jesus at the last supper. It was made in 1771 and cost the same as £8,000 today.

 **WHERE ARE THEY?**  
On the Chapel walls.

**DID YOU FIND THEM?**

### DID YOU KNOW?



There is a hidden staircase in the far left corner. It was used by the outdoors servants, who were not allowed through the family entrance.

### CHALLENGE TIME!



**Look** at the types of seats. **Guess** where the family would sit, and which seats were for servants.

## 7 LADY BRAYBROOKE'S BELL PULL

Lady Braybrooke used this room to write, and meet visitors.

**Find** a bell pull. Lady Braybrooke used this to call up to the nursery. The governess would bring the children down to see her for an hour each day.

 **WHERE IS IT?**  
In Lady Braybrooke's Sitting Room, next to the fireplace.

**DID YOU FIND IT?**



### DID YOU KNOW?

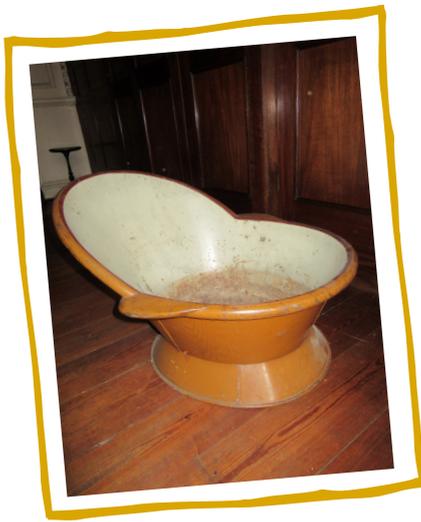


On the wall is a portrait of Elizabeth, Countess of Portsmouth, wearing a blue dress with lace cuffs. She bought Audley End house in 1751 and repaired it.

### CHALLENGE TIME!



**How** do the furniture and decorations in this room compare to your home?



## 8 HIP BATH

This bedroom is set up for Lady Braybrooke to have a bath before bedtime. **Find** the bath.

 **WHERE IS IT?**  
In the Neville Bedroom,  
in front of the fireplace.

**DID YOU  
FIND IT?**

### DID YOU KNOW?



This bed is called a 'four poster' because it has four large posts to support the expensive red silk bed hangings.

### CHALLENGE TIME!



**Look** for the pot on the floor next to the bed.  
**Discuss** what you think it was used for.

## 9 POLISH MEMORIAL

Explore the second floor Nursery and Coal Gallery before heading back outside. **Find** a stone base with an urn (a pot) on top, near the front of the house.

In the Second World War (1939–45), Audley End became a base for training Polish secret agents. This memorial commemorates these soldiers who carried out such dangerous work.

 **WHERE IS IT?**  
Outside the house. Off the driveway  
towards the entrance gate.

**DID YOU  
FIND IT?**



### DID YOU KNOW?



The bridges leading to the Audley End estate could be blown up with explosives if enemies tried to cross the river Cam.

### CHALLENGE TIME!



**Look** out to the river.  
**Spot** a pillbox (a small concrete fort, built partly underground), near the bridge. It was built to defend the river.

# TOP THINGS TO SEE

## Audley End House

Tick each thing off  
as you find it:



**1** PAINTING OF  
MARGARET  
AUDLEY



**2** SILVER  
TEAPOT



**3** OLD RED  
LEATHER BOOKS



**4** PINEAPPLE



**5** TAXIDERMY  
GREAT BUSTARD  
BIRD



**6** CHAPEL:  
PAINTED GLASS  
WINDOWS



**7** LADY  
BRAYBROOKE'S  
BELL PULL



**8** HIP BATH

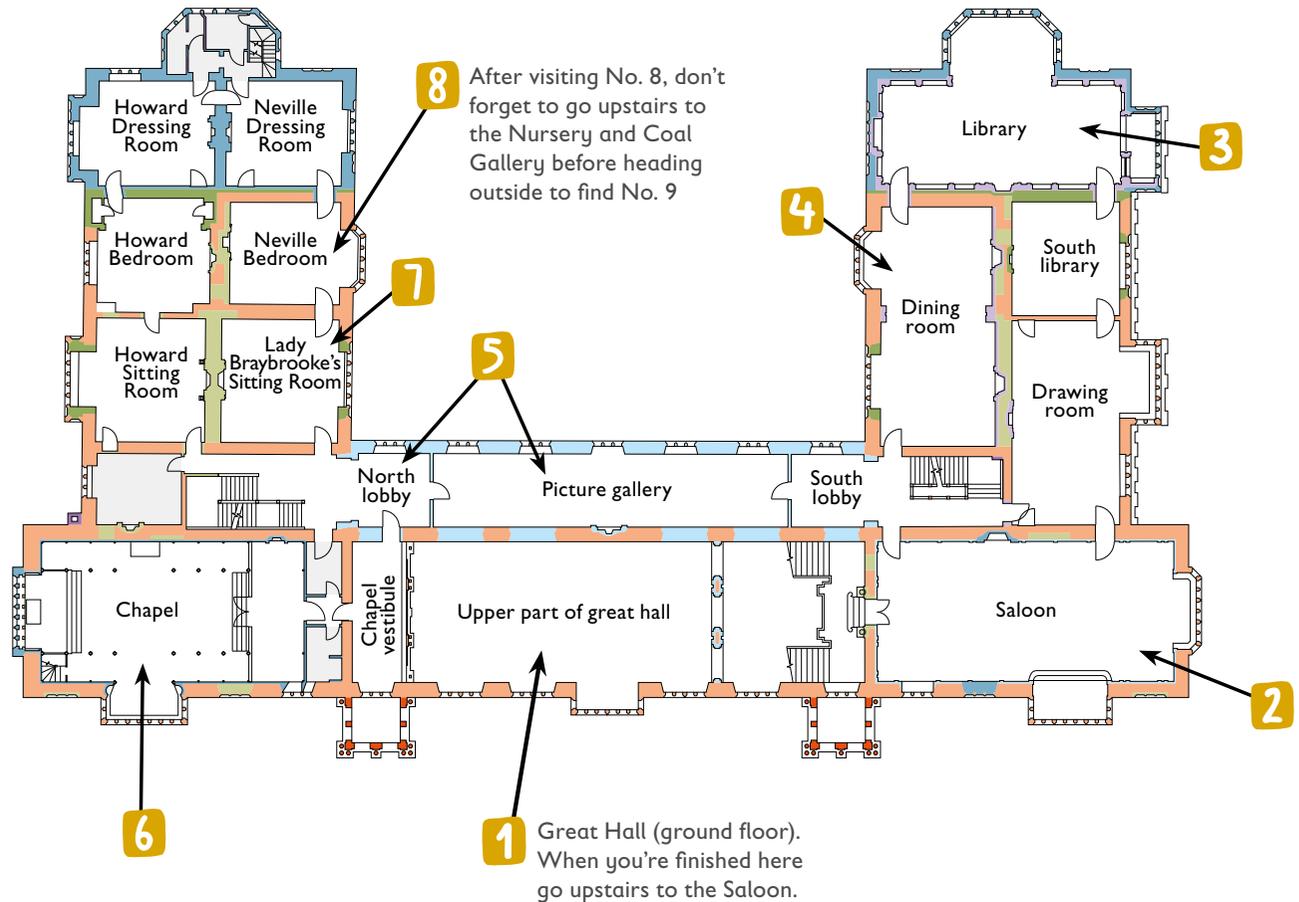


**9** POLISH  
MEMORIAL



# SELF-LED SITE TOUR MAP

First-floor plan



## KEY

- 1** Painting of Margaret Audley, Great Hall
- 2** Silver teapot, Saloon
- 3** Old red leather books, Library
- 4** Pineapple, Dining Room
- 5** Taxidermy Great Bustard Bird, North Lobby after Picture Gallery
- 6** Painted glass windows, Chapel
- 7** Bell pull, Lady Braybrooke's Sitting Room
- 8** Hip bath, Neville Bedroom
- 9** Polish Memorial, outside front of house (off driveway path)

**9** Outside the front of the house. Just off the driveway towards the entrance gate.

# WHAT I HAVE LEARNT

The best thing to see at Audley End House and Gardens is:

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The most interesting thing I have learnt today is:

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I want to know more about:

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Draw a picture inspired by your visit to Audley End House and Gardens:

