

LESSON PLAN

Belle & Sheila Stewart

AIM:

Through learning a little about these two women and their lives, we can:

- learn a little of the lives and experiences of travelling folk in this area
- learn some songs and stories in the traditional style
- learn some games travellers might have played
- learn from our families and friends
- share our learning

ACTIVITIES:

Developing an understanding of what it was to be a traveller like Belle and Sheila Stewart.

- Talk about the life of a traveller.
- Listen to Yellow on the Broom. (Avoid looking at the pictures initially.)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cidr7t0c6MQ>
- Use the words of the song to draw some conclusions about a traveller's life. Form groups of three or four. Each group takes a verse, or the chorus and works together to draw conclusions about the life of a tinker from the words in the song.
- Use A Scots' School Dictionary to help with the language. (If you haven't got these, definitions are provided.)
- Then, listen again, but this time watch the images. What do we learn from the images?

Questions:

- What might traveling folk 60 years ago have eaten?
- How will they have cooked?
- What kind of accommodation will they have lived in?
- How will they have travelled around?
- How might they have kept themselves entertained?
- What difficulties will they have faced?
- What aspects of this lifestyle appeal?

Draw a plan of a traveller's site. Think about what they need and things they would prefer to avoid. Draw and label your plan.

Incorporate drama. Ask children, in groups of three or four, to act out part of a traveller's day (meal time, getting ready for bed, washing the clothes, going visiting, selling their wares). Groups show their work to one another and other children can ask questions of the characters to learn more about what they are doing and how.

MEET BELLE & SHEILA

The following links will take you to sound and video recordings of Belle & Sheila:

<http://www.tobarandualchais.co.uk/examples>
Belle telling the story of The Beech Hedge at Meikleour

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ChxSoFUA5Js>
Sheila singing The Berryfields o' Blair

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FRySutUnzYo>
Sheila talking of the coynach

Collect story songs we know as a class. Write them down on a large sheet of paper, with room to add more. Where did we learn these? Do we all know one?

LEARN SOME SCOTS SONGS:

You can access the following songs through this link:

<http://scotssangsfurschools.com>

Dance tae yer Daddy
Katie Bairdie
Daphne Cochrane
Three Crows
Coulter's Candy
Wha Saw the 42nd?
One O'Clock Gun
Bonnie Ship the Diamond

Each time AVOID using written words. Learn by heart! And talk about where the songs might have come from and why people will have sung them.

Learn **The Berryfields o' Blair** and **The Yellow's on the Broom** (see Worksheet for words).
Learn all the words to all the verses (and if you want to be flash, learn the old tune).

Best way to teach? The teacher learns the song and sings it to the children so they hear it sung live. If possible, avoid using a recording when teaching the children.

HOMEWORK:

Children go home and learn a song or a story from a friend or family member - something personal. They then get into small groups and share the stories.

IF YOU GET THIS FAR:

Hold a class ceilidh. Get together and have a wee drink and something to snack on and share the songs and stories in whatever format suits, but ideally keep it relaxed and informal.