

Important information:

- Time: 1 hour
- Equipment: * Worksheet C (on back of sheet)
* Scissors and glue
* Pictures of interiors - at www.britarch.ac.uk/yac/factsheets.html
- Outcomes: * Knowledge of how the inside of a building might change
* Knowledge of how rooms and furniture have changed over time

Use of interior space

Domestic buildings have changed greatly in terms of the use of space over time. The earliest built homes would have had one or two rooms where all the family's activities would have taken place; it would also have been the home of the family's animals. As time progressed homes have had the spaces within in them more carefully defined; we see the emergence of separate dining and kitchen areas for example as well as indoor toilets and separate bathrooms. Children should be encouraged to look at the range of rooms in their building and where they are located, as well as clues for their original use and any subsequent changes that may have occurred. Looking for evidence of old kitchen ranges, fireplaces, bell pulls, cupboards, or original furniture may help to define what the rooms in domestic homes are or were used for. In industrial and farm buildings it may be possible to work out what processes happened where by looking at the evidence for machinery placements, unloading/loading bays or window settings.

Decoration and furniture

Decoration: Decorating our homes reflects changing personal and social tastes as well as changes in technology. It may be possible to see the evidence left behind from previous schemes by careful detective work; for example old wallpaper or painted surfaces can often be found inside cupboards! Decoration does not only appear on walls and ceilings, floors may be tiled or carpeted in a particular style and fireplaces can be intricate in detail. Places of worship may have particular religious symbols incorporated into their decoration and these in turn can give clues as to how each area of the building was used. Children may be aware of particular styles of decoration such as art deco and these should be looked at and discussed. The amount and type of decoration can give a clue as to the purpose and status of the room within the building; the grander it is the richer/more important its occupiers and purpose were!

Furniture: Dating of furniture to particular periods is quite a skill! However the function of a piece of furniture is usually fairly similar over time and the placing of certain types of furniture in a room can indicate what use the room has. Of course furniture is often portable so children should be encouraged to look for other physical clues that may indicate if the function of the room has changed over time. For example, a modern home may have a room near the kitchen with a washing machine and tumble drier in; closer inspection of the walls and floor of the room may reveal that there were once shelves and a flagstone floor thus indicating that in the past it was used as a pantry. This could lead to a discussion of why homes no longer need pantries.

Evidence for change

Careful observation is required in order to discover alterations in the interior of a building as physical evidence for change is often concealed. Ceiling roses can indicate if a room has been divided as they may not be central anymore, similarly cornicing (or coving), skirting boards and picture rails may not match around the room's edges. Alterations due to the introduction of electricity may be visible in industrial buildings where older steam driven machines have been removed and coal stores demolished. Religious buildings may have undergone alterations due to changes in worship; for example many older parish churches have unused former 'lady' chapels and blocked up processional doorways reflecting the changes brought about by Henry VIII's Reformation. All changes reflect the changing needs of society over time.

Objective: To discover how the insides of buildings have changed

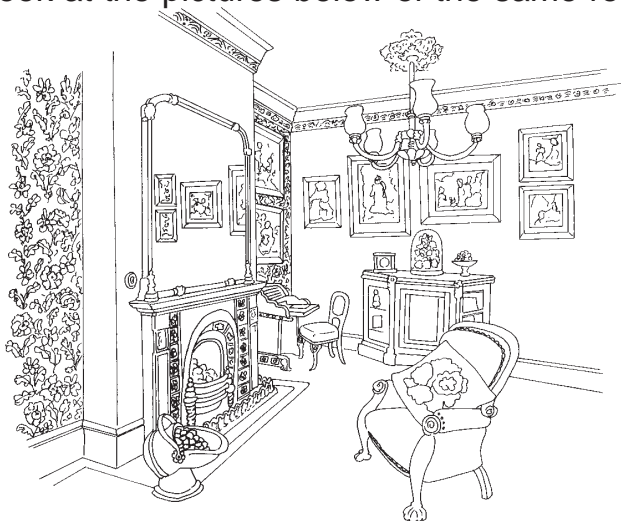
Name: _____

Spot the differences!



Look at the pictures below of the same rooms at different times in history. List the differences that you can spot.

**Victorian
drawing
room**



**Pre-reformation
church**



**21st century
sitting room**



**Reformation
church**



Discussion time!



Why do you think there are differences between the insides of these buildings? Why haven't they stayed the same over time?