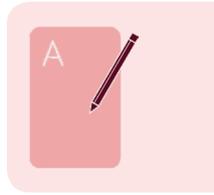


# Exploring Archives



\_TEACHERS NOTES  
RIBA KS2 | **Place-Based Activity**

## INTRODUCTION /

Begin the lesson with a five-minute starter activity, introducing the local city / town / village to the school.

Ask students to identify buildings and landmarks in their local area. Prompt them by telling them they live in a city / town / village and identifying established landmarks.

Explain that in the lesson they will learn how we record and collect knowledge of the history and geography of a city.

## SUBJECT CONTENT /

Students should continue to develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of local history. Archives can be used to establish clear narratives across periods of study.

## AIM /

1. To inspire pupils' curiosity to know more about the past.
2. To equip pupils to ask perceptive questions and to think critically.



## \_Curriculum Links

KS2:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/239035/PRIMARY\\_national\\_curriculum\\_-\\_History.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/239035/PRIMARY_national_curriculum_-_History.pdf)

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/239044/PRIMARY\\_national\\_curriculum\\_-\\_Geography.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/239044/PRIMARY_national_curriculum_-_Geography.pdf)

## KEY WORDS /

**Archive:** A collection of historical documents or records providing information about a place, institution, or group of people

## MATERIALS /

Paper, pens and pencils, coloured pencils or felt tips, old newspapers, scissors, pritt stick

## OUTCOMES / OUTPUTS

- Students are able to discuss what archives can tell us about the past
- Students produce an object for the class archive

## ACTIVITY / Key Points

- **Students will be introduced to the concept of place making, and learn about the value of an archival collection as a record of the way people live and come together in a city**
- **Students will look at examples of the photographs of a variety of places across the UK that are held in the RIBA Collection**
- **They will learn that the voices and memory of people are important to the way we record the life of a place**
- **They will carry out their own archive collection activity to experience the role we all play in place making, and in particular in the communities where we live**

## POWERPOINT / Summary

Each slide contains a short piece of text. This text can either be read, or you can allow the students to read it. The language used will be accessible for them, and the slides are written in sequence.

There are two slides in the Powerpoint where you are invited to search for your local area in RIBA's digitalized collection on RIBApix: <https://www.architecture.com/image-library/ribapix.html> and add these to the PowerPoint. Depending where you are based, you may need to widen your search criteria, but we hope you will find something relevant to your class.

For these slides containing images from the RIBA archival collection, please state the name and location of the building or place. You could explore where these places are with your students, particularly if they have not come across them before.

At the end of the PowerPoint the archive making begins. Once every student has completed their object, they can present these to each other, and collectively a class archive can be created.



# POWER POINT / Notes

## Slide 1 /

People and places:

Place-based learning is about exploring the area and locality where we live.

## Slide 2 /

### An Archive is a collection:

Stories

Memories

Historical events

Buildings and places

*Teacher note: Ask students to suggest ways we might record, stories, memories and events that happen in our lives. You could write this up on the board or alongside the presentation; words such as letters, photographs, drawings, as well as objects that can be kept as mementos.*

## Slide 3 /

### Archives can be public or private:

*Teacher note: Public archives include, museums, galleries, libraries, hospitals and schools.*

## Slide 4 /

### The RIBA:

The Royal Institute of British Architects

- The RIBA help us to understand our architectural environment
- The RIBA champions better buildings and communities

## Slide 5 /

### The RIBA Archival Collection:

Photographs. Objects. Architectural Models.

Drawings. Maps. Archives

We can learn about the geography and history of our city by looking at the collection the RIBA hold on the places where we live, and the wider region.

## Slide 6 & 7 /

### Photographs of our local in the RIBA Collection:

Teacher note: Before showing the images of the local area from the RIBA Collection, ask students to observe as they watch, and to think what the photographs might tell us about the city?

Space for the teacher to add images of the local area from the RIBA Collection of the local area.

## Slide 8 /

What can we learn about our local area from the RIBA Collection?

These photographs are part of the RIBA Collection recording the architectural past of where we live.

*Teacher note: What can we imagine about the lives of these buildings at the time they were built? Is it possible to work out why the city / town / village grew up in the first place?*

## Slide 9 /

### Exploring an archive: Every city tells a story

The buildings

The streets

The people

*Teacher note: Ask students to connect the idea that our buildings are about the people of places, through history. This includes homes and streets, as well as important city buildings and places. Once this link is clear with the group, introduce the classroom activity.*

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## Slide 10 /

### Activity:

Archives are active collections

We can contribute to the way the life of our city is recorded and preserved for the future.

Explore and create a class archive .

#### *Teacher note:*

*Ask the students to begin by working in small groups.*

*Collectively they can write a list or create a spider diagram to recap the types of objects that can make an archive (e.g. photographs, books, drawings, newspapers, models)*

*Ask each student to choose which object they would like to make for the class archive. It should be something that tells us about the local area.*

*Students can then work individually to create their archive object - depending on the materials available.*

*At the end students can present their ideas to each other, and a whole-class display can be made of their archive.*

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