



## Centre Activities

Please find attached details of the activities available for children to do whilst exploring the centre.

You can pick and choose the activities which suit your needs the most. These are only suggested activities. If you wish to devise your own activities for your group, please feel free to do so.

If you plan to visit the museum with a group please let us know in advance. We will provide pencils and clipboards for you on that day.

Many Thanks

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# Centre Activities

At the start of your visit, you will be given an activity pack containing these activity instruction cards and the resources required to complete these activities.

Exploring Skeldale House



Object Detectives



Exploring Skeldale House

**Background Information:** This house was the home and surgery of Alf Wight, vet and author of the James Herriot Stories. The house is set in the 1940s.

Before you begin to explore, ask children to think about how this house will differ from the house you live in today.

**Activity:**

- Hand each child or pair an object card\*.
- Ask children to look at the modern day objects pictured on their cards. As you explore the rooms in Skeldale house, find the similar items that people used in the 1940s.
- When the objects have been found discuss the similarities and differences between these 1940's objects and the modern day object that replaced them.

Exploring Skeldale Kitchen



Object Detectives



Exploring Skeldale Kitchen

**Background Information:** The kitchen would have been the centre of the home. Washing, cooking and cleaning would have all taken place here.

**Activity:**

- Hand each child a word card\*.
- Ask children to look around the room and search for the object named on the card.
- Once each child has found their object, discuss the object with the group. Think about what it was used for, why it was used and how it differs from the modern day equivalent (if there is one).
- Look around the room at all the other objects that have been discovered.

***Walk out of the house into the garden area.***

Exploring the Garden



Character Creation



Exploring the Garden

### Creative Car Character Creations

**Ask children to take a seat in the Austin 7 car and imagine they are on a journey. Encourage them to create a character. Ask:**

- What is your name?
- What job do you do?
- Where are you going, and why?
- Are you going to meet someone?
- If yes, who are you meeting and why?
- Is anyone travelling with you in the car?
- Is there anything special about the car?



Who was the Real James Herriot?



**The Real James Herriot Room:** this room is all about the life of the man behind the James Herriot stories.

#### Activity:

- Tell children that they will be finding out information about the real James Herriot.
- Hand each child a question card\*.
- Ask children to find the answer to that question.
- Once they have found the answer, hand them another question card.

***Discuss all the questions and answers with the group before moving through the foldyard into the TV Studio.***

Exploring the TV Studios



Lights, cameras, action!



Exploring the TV Studios

**The Television Studios:** The James Herriot stories were turned into a TV series; ***All Creature Great and Small.*** This area is a reconstruction of the set used in the filming of the program.

**Activity:** Use the scripts and costumes provided to act out a scene.

**Alternative Activity:** Encourage children to write their own scripts for a scene which could be filmed in this TV studio.

*Think about what is going to happen in your scene. How many characters are there are going to be and who they are? Which part of the TV studio is the scene going to be set?*

Exploring the collection



Becoming a Vet



Exploring the collection

***Make your way upstairs to the Interactive Gallery & Vet Medicine Rooms.***

**The Interactive Gallery:** The interactive gallery contains Science games and activities for key stage 1 & 2 children, based on animals and being a vet.

Allow children time to explore the interactive gallery.

**Vet Medicine Rooms**

Encourage children to explore the objects that vets in the past used to treat animals.

**Activity:**

- Hand each child an animal card\*.
- Explain to the group that their animal needs to be treated by a vet.
- Can they find the object that the vet might use?

**Alternative Activity:**

Ask children to choose their favourite object to sketch.



All Creatures Great and Small.



**All Creatures Great and Small**

Take a look at the stained glass window and name the animals depicted in it.

**Activity:** Take a look at the skeletons on display. Discuss which animal each skeleton belongs to. Ask children to choose their favourite to sketch.

**Alternative Activity:** Ask the group to read the panels and find the answers to the following questions:

- What is the declaration that students must make before the president of the royal college of veterinary surgeons?
- Name 3 of the charitable animal welfare organisations.

**(\* see attached for card information)**

**Cards linked to Skeldale house and kitchen activities**

 <p>Telephone</p>	 <p>Camera</p>
 <p>Typewriter</p>	 <p>Light Switch</p>
 <p>Music Player</p>	 <p>T.V</p>
 <p>Records</p>	 <p>Weighing Scales</p>



Hoover



Sewing Machine



Radio



Books

Mincer

Rag Rug

Oven

Kettle

Weighing Scales

Pegs

Pram	Washing Machine
Iron	Hot Water Bottle
Hoover	Milk Bottle
Bread Tin	Jams

## Real James Herriot Questions

Where was James Herriot born?	How many copies of his books have been sold world wide?
Where was he born?	Which city did he move to as a child?
What was the name of James Herriot's mum?	Which school did he attend as a child?
What was James Herriot's real name?	What did James Herriot spend his honeymoon doing?
How many children has got? What are his children's names?	Who got James herriot to start writing his book?
When James came to Thirsk who was he apprentice to?	How old was Alf when he received his papers to join the RAF?
Where did Alf get the name James Herriot from?	What did Jim Herriot use for sun reflection cream?
The first two books James wrote where published into one book called?	How many British people watched All Creatures Great and Small?

