

STORY STORKS PRESENTS...

DICK WHITTINGTON



TEACHER RESOURCE PACK

ROYAL BOROUGH OF KINGSTON

A resource for Early Years Teachers & Professionals to support
learning around the themes featured in
Dick Whittington

TRANSPORT | LOCAL HISTORY | BRITISH LEGEND

This May...

DICK WHITTINGTON



**LIMITED
AVAILABILITY FOR
GROUP
BOOKINGS
BOOK SOON!!**

...returns to Twickenham!

1st to 3rd May 2020
The Exchange, Twickenham
Tickets on sale via Box Office
020 8240 2399

WWW.STORYSTORKS.CO.UK

Dear Early Years Professional,



We're thrilled to be sharing our work with you via this pack. Hopefully, you'll also get the chance to see us in action on stage, though we've written this guide to be useful to you whether you get to the show or not. We understand that it can be quite a feat to move small feet even a short distance!

This pack includes...

1. An **Introduction** including a bit about us and details on how to use this pack.
2. **The true story of Dick Whittington**, as put together by our heritage researcher.
3. A **synopsis** of the story we tell during our show.
4. Examples of **activities** you can use in your setting either before or after the show
5. A little more about the **local history** elements we feature in the show.

As a Kingston based social enterprise, we are on a mission to bring local stories to local kids. As actors, we're also perfectly placed to help and inspire both kids and grown-ups to use drama techniques as part of your literacy and language strategy. We hope this guide helps to do just that.

With Thanks

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sarah Cantrill BSc Hons, FRSA, Artistic Director & Founder

INTRODUCTION

About Story Storks

Story Storks is an Early Years Theatre Company on a mission to eradicate illiteracy for the next generation of children. Not only that – we want to inspire every child who comes into contact with our work to become a reader for pleasure as the evidence is clear that these children perform better at exam time.

We've taken all the science behind the EYFS and turned it into Theatre Shows, Workshops & Children's picture books packed full of Creative Literacy. For the past 8 years we've worked with local schools, nurseries & parents to bring magical storytelling to little ones, and successfully kept from the kids that they're learning (seriously – they have no idea!)

About Dick Whittington

We have combined both the legend and the history of Dick Whittington to create a brand new theatre show for Early Years Children. During our story research we discovered that the legend of Dick Whittington, as spread by the troubadours and storytellers of old, has deviated somewhat from the version of the man that we can interpret from the historical documents in which he is featured. Most shocking to us was that there is a very real possibility he didn't travel to London via Highgate Hill, and that this was inserted into the legend as a marketing ploy by the Mercer's Company who had just moved their Headquarters to this part of London!

During our market research we were saddened to discover that the majority of parents are no longer telling their children the story of Dick Whittington. This legend is one of 30 that has been identified as being a part of English Heritage, as much as our castles and landscape. We're hoping to reinvigorate the story and, by adding the element of local history, make it relevant to the current generation.



How to use this Pack

We've written a profile of Dick Whittington from historical records, and put together a version of the legend from those we encountered during our research. We've listed a sample of the activity guides, worksheets, discussion guides and colouring sheets available for download on our website. Please feel free to photocopy and circulate the worksheets.

We'd love to see how you use this pack, and if you have any photos that you would like to share with us, we'd really love to see them. If you'd rather they stayed between us then please e-mail them over. If you're happy to use social media then please post, tag us in and use the hashtag #therealdickwhittington.

This teachers pack will remain on our website for future generations to enjoy, so if you find yourself thinking 'I wish that pack contained Item A', please write to us and tell us what item A is! We want to create relevant support materials for you, now and in the future. Your feedback will help us to achieve this.

Further Information

Beyond this pack, there is a show being performed from the 3rd to 7th December 2019 and tickets are available through the Rose Theatre. See their website for further details.

<https://www.rosetheatrekingston.org/whats-on/story-storks-presents-dick-whittington>

See our website for further details, or follow us on social media. You can also sign up to our mailing list via our website.

www.storystorks.co.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/storystorks/> | Instagram: @storystorks
Twitter: @storystorks

You can contact us directly if you have questions, or if there is anything we can help with. You can reach me, Sarah Cantrill, on 020 8090 2100 or by e-mail, sarah@storystorks.co.uk



THE TRUE STORY OF DICK WHITTINGTON

(c. 1350 to 1423)

Early Life

Richard Whittington, known as Dick, was born around 1350 in Pauntley, Gloucestershire. He was the third son of Sir William Whittington and Joan Maunsell. Sir William died in 1358 leaving a small debt behind him.



Apprenticeship to the Mercers

There is plenty of evidence of Dick's work as a Mercer, so whilst his apprenticeship isn't documented, it is probably safe to say that this is the reason he left Gloucestershire. During the medieval period, it was seen as 'good for a child' to be sent away from home to work, sometimes from as young as the age of 9 and certainly before they were 14. Children from impoverished families will have worked as servants for obvious financial reasons, but parents of means will have saved up to buy an apprenticeship for their children¹.

Dick was born shortly after the Black Death, and with a heavily depleted population², it is not unreasonable to suppose that he started his apprenticeship sooner rather than later.

1. Kremer, W. What medieval Europe did with its teenagers, *BBC News Magazine*, 23 March 2014 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-26289459>

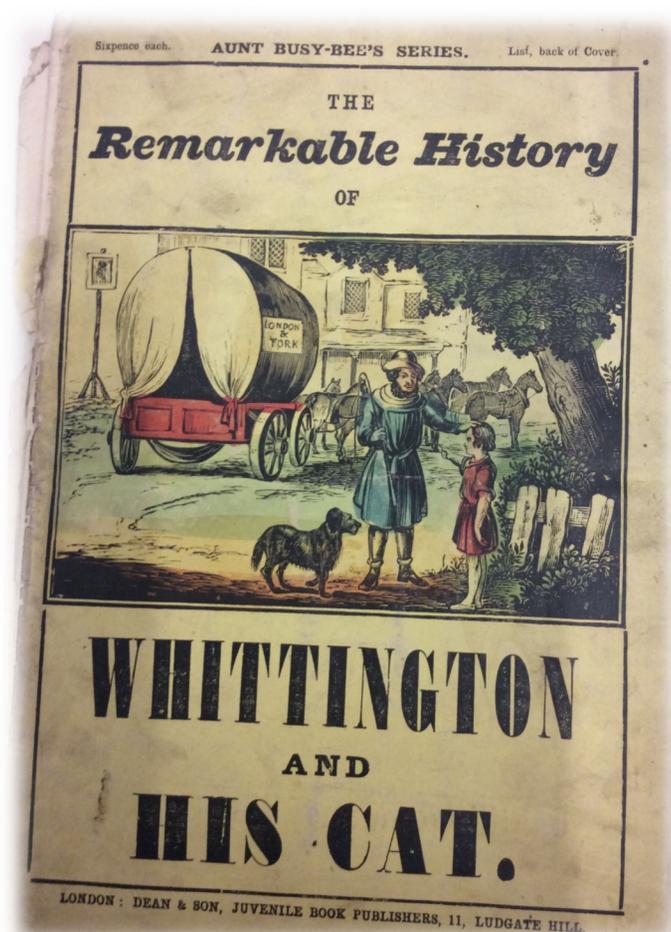
2. Black Death in England, Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Death_in_England

The Journey to London

Dick left behind no personal records, so we will never know for sure the route that he took. However, during our initial research, it became apparent that our current perception of how Dick travelled to London is based on somewhat fragile assumptions.

The legend tells us that Dick entered London via Highgate Hill, and in some versions travels via Oxford, making his journey comparable to the route of the modern-day M40. Some academics and experts have doubts about the validity of Highgate Hill as a part of the route; it doesn't take into consideration that Dick had money and the importance of the rivers as a form of transport during the period.

Highgate Hill was a place of importance to the Mercers company, with the Master Mercer, Richard Rawson, being registered as owning land there in 1480³. During this time, the legend was still being told orally by travelling troubadours and storytellers. Some speculate that the Mercers had the Highgate Hill reference inserted into the story as a 'marketing tactic'. Further research is needed to test the validity of this claim.



The Gough map⁴, one of the earliest maps of Britain possibly dating from as around 1360, is the oldest surviving attempt at an accurate map of Britain. The strategic importance of rivers is emphasised, and the waterways network is well represented. Roman roads were in existence at that time, and were thought to be depicted by red lines which scholars now believe are routes rather than actual roads. Whilst the Gough map still remains something of an enigma, as a tool of navigation, it is much more useful to a sailor than a wagon owner, which may be indicative of the more prominent means of transport during that time.

So, if Dick didn't travel via Highgate Hill and he probably travelled by river at some point, how did he get to London?

We'd like to know too, and are in the process of securing funds to conduct full research into his journey.

3. Alderman of the City of London Temp. Henry III - 1912, *British History Online* <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/no-series/london-aldermen/hen3-1912>)

4. Kings College London, Linguistic Geographies, The Gough Map of Great Britain, 2011 <http://www.goughmap.org/>)

The Journey to London Contd

For the purposes of our show, we have drawn on 'The Dick Whittington Adventure', where BBC Radio Gloucestershire's Mark Cummings and his team of Whittington Walkers extensively researched and then retraced the route Dick Whittington took from Pauntley to London, completing the mammoth walk, ride and river journey at midday on Saturday 4th June 2005. Their walk from Cirencester through Lechlade on Thames to Wantage takes them along the modern-day A417, sections of which are still called 'London Road'.

DAY	HOW	FROM	TO
1	Walk	Pauntley	Gloucester
2	Walk	Gloucester	Cirencester
3	Walk	Cirencester	Lechlade on Thames
4	Walk	Lechlade on Thames	Wantage
5	Horseback/Walk	Wantage	Caversham
6	Walk	Caversham	Maidenhead
7	Thames River Boat	Maidenhead	Richmond
8	Walk (& tube??)	Richmond	Highgate Hill
9	Walk	Highgate Hill	City of London

Table 1: Following in the footsteps of Dick Whittington, Press Release, *BBC Radio Gloucestershire*, 18th March 2005

If Dick did indeed travel via the River Thames, then he will have sailed through Kingston on his way to Richmond. Evidence of 13th-century boat timbers have been found along the Kingston riverfront on the north side of the bridge, showing that merchant vessels will have actively traded with Kingston during this time.⁵

As to why Dick didn't get off the boat until Richmond, there is evidence that Kingston was plagued by 'Roberdsmen, wasters and draghlaches', with criminal gangs plundering and burning entire hamlets at that time⁶. It wasn't until 1400 that the town was granted royal protection. In nearby Richmond, the mother of King Edward III lived in a Manor which was a precursor to Richmond Palace and a residence of future Kings. It's probably safe to say that he was less likely to be robbed in Richmond!

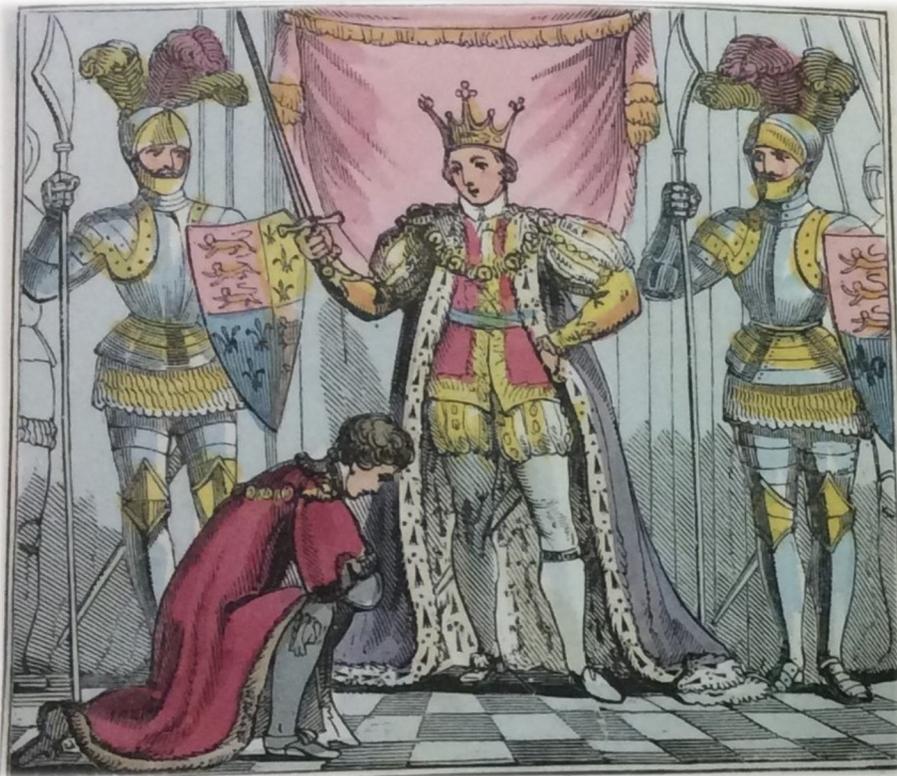
5. G. Potter, 'The medieval bridge and waterfront at Kingston-upon-Thames', *cited note 9*, p. 143.

6. Calendar of Close Rolls, Edward III 1339 – 41 (1901), p.202.

As a Mercer & a Moneylender

The first record of Dick Whittington as a Mercer is in 1379, when he contributed five marks towards a civic gift to the nobles of the realm. By 1388 he was a major supplier to the royal court, and by 1389 he was selling his wares to King Richard II. The pattern continued, with Dick recorded as supplying mercery to Henry IV's great wardrobe and for the marriages of Henry IV's daughters, Blanche and Philippa⁷.

His close connections with wealthy customers left him in an advantageous position as a money lender. He is recorded as lending to the crown on nearly sixty occasions. He also lent money to individuals. He kept his capital liquid rather than investing it into a large estate which meant that he was able to make consistently large loans over a sustained period of time⁷.



During the reign of Edward III, it is probable that he also engaged in trade with Italy in the rapidly expanding export of English woollen cloth. He is known to have collected on royal debts via wool subsidies and served as a collector of the wool subsidies in all of London twice between 1401 and 1410, which would have been very lucrative indeed⁷.

His professional interests diversified over time, and in the last decade of his life he enacted fewer sales and took on fewer apprentices, but he continued to import linens and deal in mercery until the end⁷.

7. Sutton A.F. 'Whittington, Richard [Dick]', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, 1st September 2017

As a Statesmen

As Dick climbed the ranks of the social echelon, so he also furthered a successful civic career. Below is a list of notable offices held⁷.

1384 to 1393	Common Councilman for Coleman Street Ward
1393 to 1397	Alderman of Broad Street
1393	Sheriff of London
1395	Warden of the Mercers Company
1397	Lord Mayor of London (appointed by Richard II)
1397	Lord Mayor of London (via election)
1399 to 1400	Member of Henry IV's first council
1401 to 1402	Warden of the Mercers Company
1405 to 1423	Mayor of the staple of Westminster
1406 to 1413	Mayor of the Calais staple
1406	Lord Mayor of London (via election)
1408 to 1409	Warden of the Mercers company
1416 to 1417	MP for the city
1419	Lord Mayor of London (via election)
1421	Judge in Ursury Trials, London

Love and Marriage

Dick Whittington married Alice Fitwarin around 1402. He bought a large house in The Royal, next to the church of St Michael Paternoster Royal where they lived together. They had no children⁷.

Just eight years later, Alice died. At that time, it would have been customary for a man of Dick's standing to take another wife, but he died a widower. Immediately after her death, his demeanour appears to have changed. He took a break from civic life and wound down the elements of his business that would have involved him investing time in work colleagues. A man of his standing would have been expected to take another wife, yet there is no evidence of there having been anyone else.

The evidence tends towards the conclusion that he was a man who waited a relatively long time to find the love of his life, and was heartbroken when he lost her.

He paid for the rebuilding of the church St Michael Paternoster Royal as a final resting place for himself and Alice. It burned to the ground during the great fire of London and was rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren. Although the tomb is lost, there is a stained glass window commemorating his direct link to the church.

His Legacy

During his lifetime Dick Whittington gave to good causes and set up some of his own. Some of those documented causes include a library at Greyfriars, a refuge for unmarried mothers and more unusually a longhouse which included the largest provision of public lavatories at that time, and an almshouse⁷.

His life and work were given in service of the people of London, and so it seems fitting that he decided to leave his entire fortune to charity. These included rebuilding Newgate Prison, rebuilding the south wall of St Bartholomew's Hospital, establishing a library at the Guildhall and installing public fountains in the city⁷.

The fruits of his generosity still linger, with many of the institutions he founded or supported still running today. It was this final act of extreme munificence that gave rise to the legend of Dick Whittington. By the early seventeenth century the story of the orphan boy Whittington from Gloucester who came to London and made good was being circulated. A poor kitchen Scullion, he was befriended by the daughter of the master of the house, Alice Fitzwarren, but was plagued in his attic bedroom by rats and mice. He bought himself a cat who drove the vermin away. Alderman Fitzwarren offered all of his servants the opportunity to contribute to his trading ship, The Unicorn, but the only thing Dick could offer was his cat. When the Unicorn docked in North Africa, the King their bought the cat for 10 times more than the all the other merchandise to solve his rat problem. Dick had lost faith in the Aldermans return and was leaving for Gloucestershire, but as he walked over Highgate hill the Bow Bells called him back. He returned to discover that The Unicorn had docked and that he was a rich man.

And the cat...?

It is believed that the feline legend originates from the famous picture of him seen holding a cat. Turns out the cat was added later, and he was originally holding a skull!



DICK WHITTINGTON

A storyteller and a historian are arguing. The storyteller wants to tell the Legend of Dick Whittington. The Historian wants to tell the real facts about the real man. They agree to disagree, and our story begins.

Sir William Whittington is partying with his wife Joan and son Dick at Whittington Manor in Gloucestershire when he unexpectedly pops his clogs. The party planners are owed money, and with debts to pay Dick decides to head for London. He's heard the streets there are paved with gold, so he'll grab some, bring it back and save his mum from the debt collectors.

He walks, hitches a ride on a wagon and a rows in a river boat.

On the way he stops off in a local town – Kingston! During a chat with a market trader he learns a little of the local history; the discovery of a Woolly Mammoth's tooth under what is now M&S, The Coronation Stone and 'Out of Order'. He buys a tea towel and gets back on the boat.

Finally, Dick sails into London only to discover that the streets aren't paved with gold and he has no money to get home. He curls up for the night in a doorway, where, upon finding him, the Master of the house offers him a job as a kitchen boy.



SHOW SYNOPSIS

Dick sets to work under the watchful and often sarcastic eye of the cook. He meets Alice Fitzwarren, the Master's daughter, and they fall in love. At night, his attic bedroom is plagued by mice and rats, so he decides to save his wages and buy himself a cat at the local market.

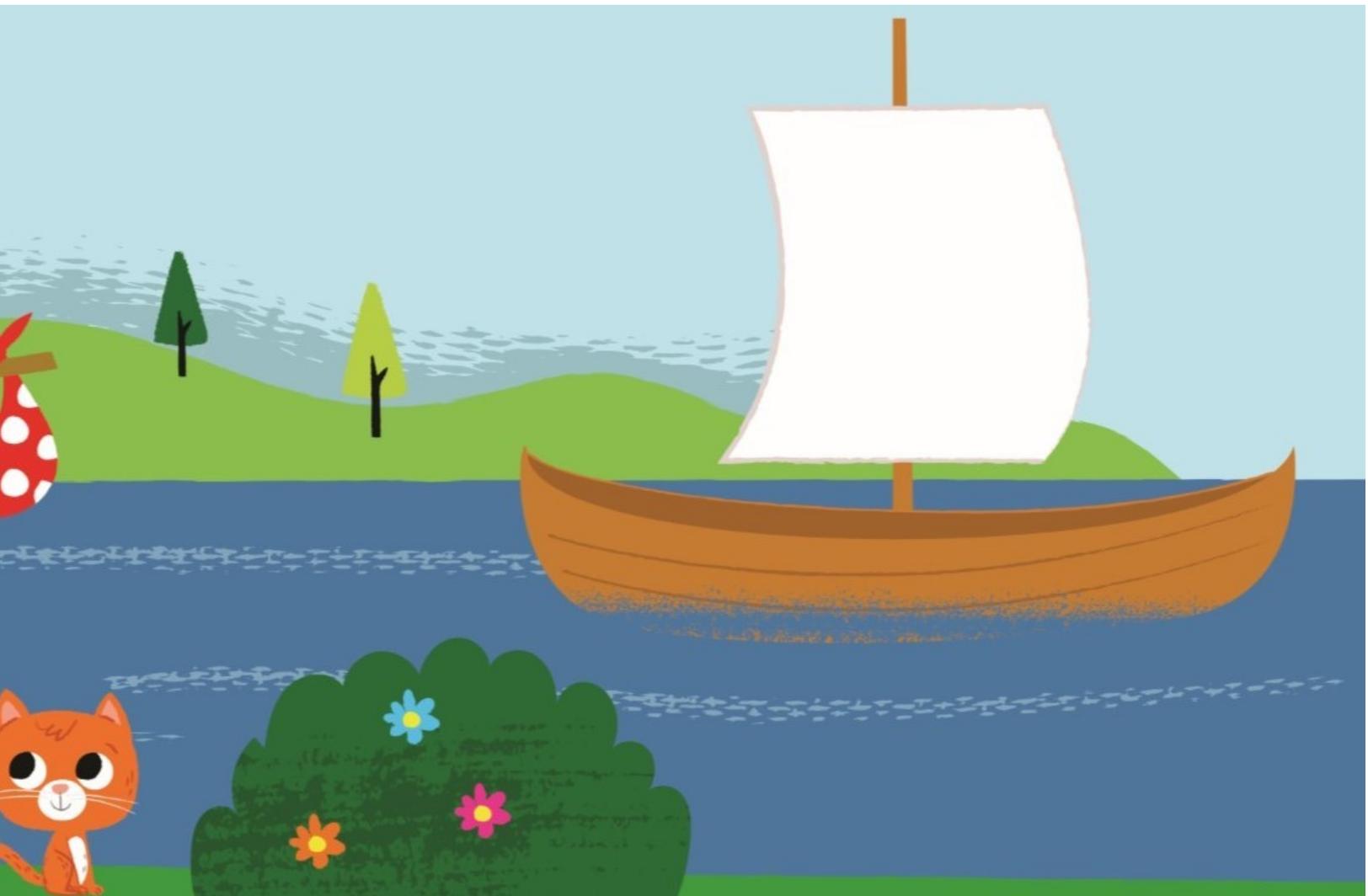
That night, the cat (ably assisted by his friends – flying cat and cat on wheels), defeat the mice and rats that have been keeping Dick awake. The cat and Dick become the best of friends.

The Master, Alderman Fitzwarren, is heading overseas with a trading ship and offers to take something of Dicks to sell. This could be the answer to his mum's debt worries, but the cat is his friend. Should he choose his mum, or his cat?

The cat chooses for him and heads off to the land of the Moors with the Alderman. There he proves his worth as a mouser, and the King pays ten gold coins for the cat.

Meanwhile, back in London, things aren't going well for Dick, so he decides to head back to his mum. On the way, as he gets to Highgate Hill (although our historian has doubts on the location), he hears the Bow Bells and returns to London to discover that the Alderman has returned and he is rich.

He proposes to Alice, and everybody lives Happily Ever After.



ACTIVITIES FOR YOUR SETTING

Below are some of the activities we've created that you could use to continue the themes from the show into the classroom. You will find these, and more, on our website available for download including worksheets, discussion guides, songs, drama & roleplay ideas and colouring sheets. Please feel free to print and reproduce as many of these materials as you wish.

www.storystorks.co.uk/ourstories/dickwhittington

Dicks journey song - Lyrics, backing track and actions

(Language/Understanding the World/Transport)

During the show we learned that Dick probably travelled to London by walking, riding on a wagon and in a boat. Sing along and join in with the action for this interactive song.

Where do you walk? - Ideas for discussion and a display

(Expressive Arts & Design, Understanding the World/Transport)

"Dick walked from Gloucestershire to Maidenhead. Where do you walk to?"

Encourage the children to draw the places that they walk to i.e. grandma's house, the doctors, school, and use their output to create a 'map of the local area' display, featuring their drawings.

Interactive Storytelling - Retelling the story

(Communication & Language/Mathematics/Physical Development)

We've written out the main events of the story, and interspersed it with actions for the children to act out. They get to count as they go up the stairs, cook with Cook and sing with the Bow Bells. All you need for this fun drama-based activity is room for the children to move their bodies, though it can all be done on the spot.

Three Arc Plot - worksheets

(Literacy)

We start the show with Once Upon a Time and end with Happily Ever After. We've created some worksheets for the children to be able to draw or write their own Once Upon a Time, Happily Ever After, and their version of the middle. Once completed, the pages can be attached together so that the children have their very own book, and can continue to tell the story at home.

Alphabet Jars

(Literacy)

During the show, Dick has to find ingredients for a plum pudding in the kitchen jars. Make some alphabet jars of your own, and ask the children to put items in the right jar. In the show we had raisins, lemons and carrots, but you can use anything you like. You can draw the ingredients for a recipe, or take small items from around your setting and put them in.

'What Cat' Game

(Communication and Language/Physical Development)

The show features three cats – a flying cat, cat on wheels and walking cat. We've devised a 'sound reaction' drama game for early years children that you can easily facilitate in your setting. You can play the game with the whole class or a small group. All you need is space for the children to move and three 'sounds'.

What else has wheels - Ideas for discussion, display and movement

(Understanding the World, Transport/Transport)

"Dick rode on a wagon. The wheels on the wagon go round and round!"

What other forms of transport have wheels? How many wheels do they have? Which have engines, and which are powered by the person riding them?

We've compiled a whole host of questions to ask with guidance on taking the answers towards roleplay, movement, junk modelling or a display.

LOCAL HISTORY

The will show feature three local history stories. We're in consultation with the locals about what stories they would like us pass on to the kids. Some of the nuggets we've received so far include

1. Pocahontas stayed at Sion House in Brentford
2. Twickenham stadium is built on a cabbage field!
3. Feltham has a pea named after it. The Feltham Pea.

If you have a story that you'd like to throw into the mix then do let us know. All will be considered!

Thanks

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FOR YOUR NOTES





This teachers resource is a definitive guide to both the legend and the history behind *Dick Whittington*, one of London's most infamous residents.

Early Years children have the opportunity to learn more about Transport in the context of a story as we explore Dick's journey to London, and discover that he didn't just walk.

We take a little peek at local history, whetting appetites for future learning and we find out why the telephone boxes in Old London Road have all fallen over!

Though written to accompany the show, 'Dick Whittington', the history, story and resources contained within this guide can be used in any learning setting.

We hope you enjoy this story as much as we've enjoyed unearthing it!

www.storystorks.co.uk