



Year Five Knowledge Organiser

Civilisation and British Values

History- A local study of Launceston Town Centre Over Time.

National Curriculum Learning Intentions:

- A Local study

A study over time tracing how several aspects of national history are reflected in the locality.



Historical / Significant People

Charles Causley - Charles Stanley Causley, [CBE](#), [FRSL](#) (24 August 1917 - 4 November 2003) was a Launceston poet, schoolmaster and writer. His work is noted for its simplicity and directness and for its associations with folklore, especially when linked to his native Cornwall.

Roger Moore went to Launceston College as a boarder.

Key Dates

1726 - Launceston gave its name to a settlement in Tasmania, Australia

1835- Launceston was the county town of Cornwall until this time.

1837- As a result of 'The New Poor Law Act' of 1834, a purpose built workhouse was built.

May 1921 - HRH Edward, Prince of Wales and Duke of Cornwall laid the foundation stone of the war memorial.

1856- The Cornish and Devon post was founded.

1935 - Tower Cinema opens

1900- Cattle Market off Racehill opens

1992- Cattle Market closes.

1994- Launceston hospital (old workhouse) demolished in preparation for the building of Tesco.

Launceston Coat of Arms



- Launceston was originally called Dunheved. It is commonly known by locals as Lanson.
- The name Launceston is made up of Celtic and Saxon words. Lann meant church in Cornish. So it was the Lann of St Stephen. The 'ton' comes from the Saxon word 'tun' which meant farm, hamlet or estate.
- The River Tamar constitutes almost the entire Cornwall and Devon border.
- It was the site of the earliest known mint in Cornwall during the time of Etherell II.
- Launceston is known as the Gateway to Cornwall'.
- Launceston was a walled town with access via three gates, Northgate, Westgate and Southgate. Northgate and Westgate were demolished during the Victorian period to make way for road construction.
- Until 1884 the Southgate had a reputation by which it was known - Dark House. In 1381, records show that prisoners were incarcerated in '...a most filthy and dilapidated place'.
- Launceston has a hidden reservoir running underneath the town at Broad Street (Broad Street Reservoir). It has many times saved Launceston from destruction by fire, even as late as the Southgate Street fire of the 3rd of May, 2003, when it provided some of the water required to put out flames in the Oxfam shop.
- Launceston Weekly News, 21 May, 1875: *A fire broke out on Wednesday morning, 19th May, at Launceston, in the forage stores of Mr A Lyne, grocer and forage dealer, whose front shop was situated near the Corn Market in what had recently become Broad Street, but which was a continuation of High Street. On one side of Mr Lyne's premises was the shop of Mr Stevens, next to that being the shop of Mrs W Thomas, milliner and draper. The large fire engine, "The Volunteer," which has been renovated and placed on high wheels, at considerable cost, was in Broad Street in ten minutes, but in a few minutes the supply of water in the reservoir was exhausted and the mechanism broke down.*
- In the 19th Century two workhouses catered for the destitute. The original was situated on Dockacre Road. In 1804, the Quaker and Prison reformer, James Neid reported it to be, "A scene of filth, rags and wretchedness..."
- A walled butter market was a prominent feature of Launceston town centre and important trading place for locals. It was demolished to make way for the war memorial in 1921. Its founding stone was laid by HRH Edward Prince of Wales and Duke of Cornwall
- In 1900, a purpose built cattle market was built off Racehill. Markets were held on the last Tuesday of every month. Every Tuesday, from then on was known by locals of 'Lanson' as 'Market Day'. As times changed, its location on Racehill meant that it became increasingly difficult for large cattle transporters to gain access and the way that livestock was being traded led to a decline in sales in the 1980s. The market was closed after 91 years.
- In 1935, Tower Cinema opened its doors. It was said to be the most modern in the whole of Devon and Cornwall. It was the hub of entertainment. In the 1970s, young children were still enjoying the Matinee Club. It was demolished in 1986.



Key Vocabulary

Primary sources - historical evidence from an original source.

Oral history - spoken past experiences or knowledge.

Launceston - a Cornish market town.

Cornwall - a county of the United Kingdom.

HRH - His / Her Royal Highness.

Architecture - the style of buildings.

Trade - buying and selling goods.

Market - a regular gathering of people for the trade of goods and livestock.

Reservoir - water supply

Memorial - a statue or structure established to remind people of a person or event.

Key Numbers

Launceston has a population of around 7000.

The cattle market traded for 91 years.

The Upper Market, better known as the Butter Market was the hub of Launceston for nearly 70 years.

The war memorial cost £2000 to complete.



