
BC
Middle Ages
century
Ancient Greece
ROME
XIX
HISTORY
WORLD WAR
Herodotus
XX
Periods

Session 1

Discussion…

How do we keep in touch with our friends and family today?



We can keep in touch by...



writing a post card

typing an email

sending a text



speaking on FaceTime



making a phone call



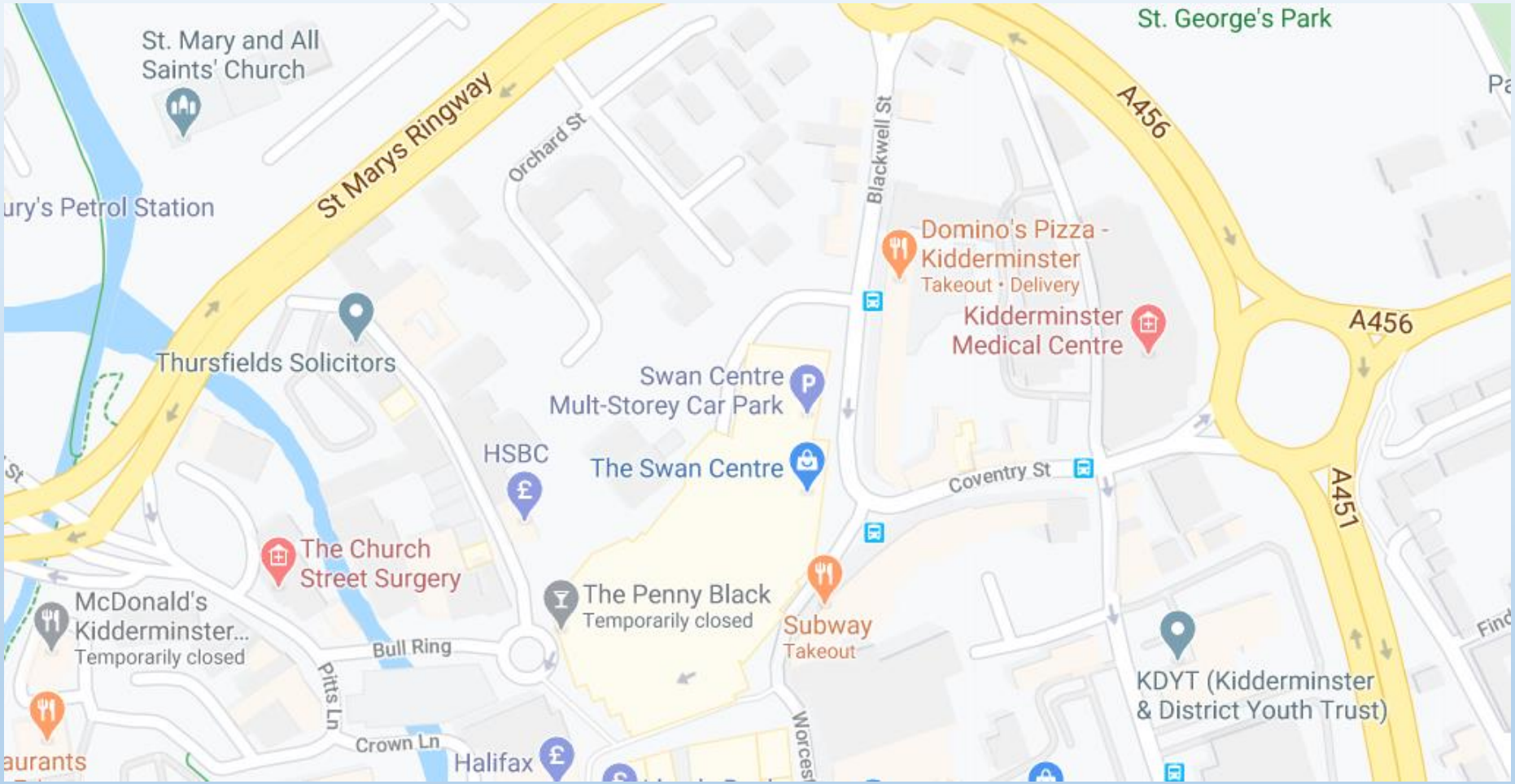
sending a letter

We are very lucky to have lots of ways to keep in contact with people. However, in the past it was not that easy!

We are going to learn about a famous gentleman called Rowland Hill who is local to Kidderminster. He made some BIG changes to help people communicate better!



Rowland Hill was born on 3rd December 1795 in Blackwell Street in Kidderminster. Can you find Blackwell Street on the map?



Later in his life, he moved to London and when he died he was buried in Westminster Abbey which is where lots of Kings and Queens are buried because he was a very important man.

Rowland Hill lived for a long time in Kidderminster and Birmingham and did lots of important things. People in Kidderminster are very proud of Rowland Hill because he was very important. Have you heard his name before?

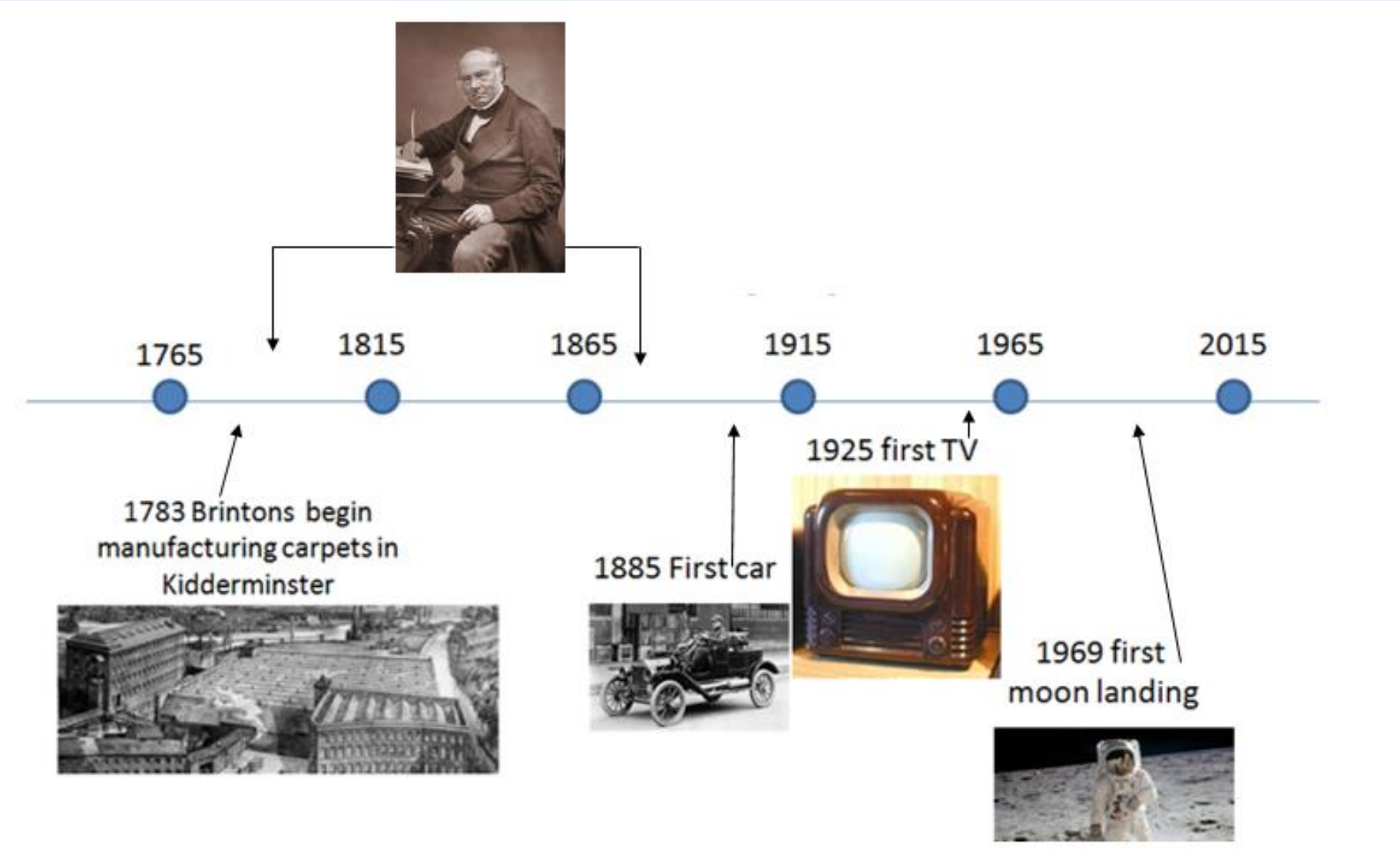
Look at these pictures. Have you seen these places before? What do they have to do with Rowland Hill?







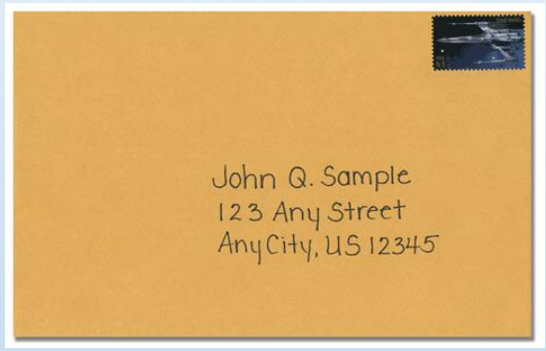
Rowland Hill was alive from 1795 to 1879. He did lots of things in his life and helped lots of people. Look at the timeline to see where his life fits in with other important things. Would Rowland Hill have ever watched the television?



Here are some picture clues for what Rowland Hill is famous for.









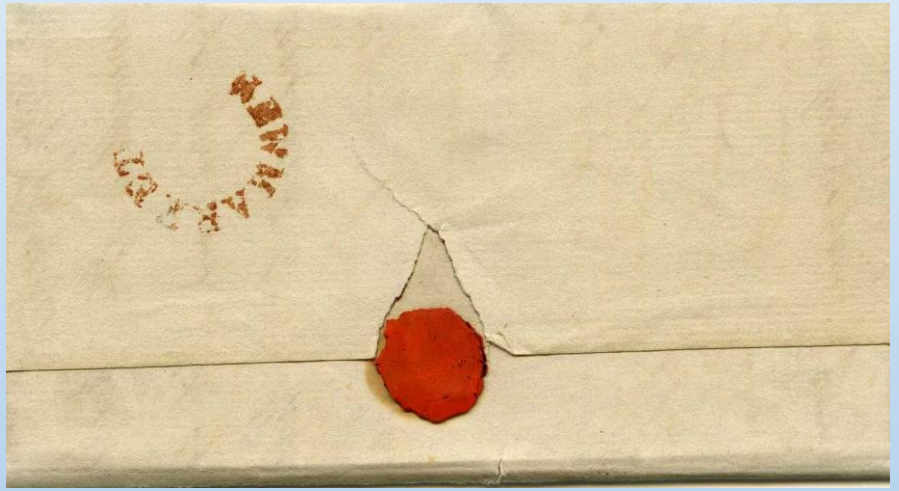
Can you guess what it is?

Watch the video to find out all about Rowland Hill's big idea...

https://postalheritage.wordpress.com/tag/key-stage-1/

Before 1840, sending a letter cost 12 times more than a loaf of bread! The cost was based on the distance a letter travelled and the number of pages it contained. Unlike today, the person who received the letter usually paid for it.





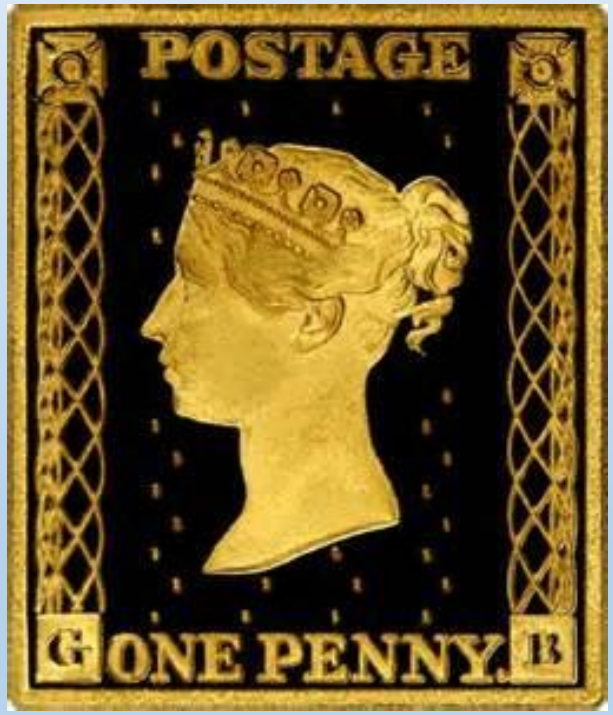
Early letters were written on paper, folded and sealed.

©The Postal Museum
Two examples of early sealed letters.

Rowland Hill invented the Penny Black stamp so that people could pay for their letters before they sent them. This was so that it was easier and cheaper to send letters.

Look at the picture of the Penny Black stamp. How is it the same as stamps that we have today? The picture on the stamp is of Queen Victoria. She was the Queen in 1840.

Who is on the stamps that we have today?



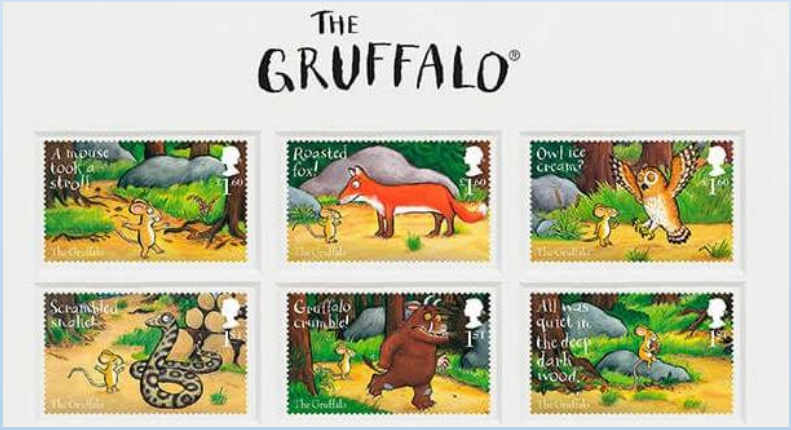
The Penny Black 1840



Modern Stamp, 2020

Modern stamps have Queen Elizabeth on, but there are also other stamp designs used for different occasions. Some people collect different stamp designs too.











Task

Design your own stamp.



You can choose your own theme for your stamp or choose a theme from the ideas below. This activity can be completed on a plain piece of paper.

A summer themed stamp

A St. Catherine's themed stamp

A Kidderminster themed stamp

A NHS themed stamp


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Session 2

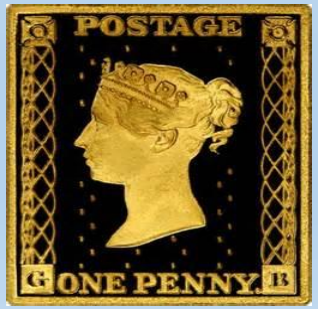
Recap…

Rowland Hill

Rowland Hill was responsible for the first ever postage stamp in 1840.

This enabled people to pay for their letters before they sent them. This was so that it was easier and cheaper to send letters.





In 1840, phones had no been invented and neither had the internet. The only way of communicating with family and friends who lived far away was to write to them.

To find out more about the Penny Black, watch this clip below.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a6LoN0WObAo

Quiz

This is a multiple choice quiz. You must choose your answer out of the 3 available options. Write down your answers and check them on the next slide. ☺

1. What year was the first postage stamp invented? A, 2020 B, 1880 C, 1840

2. How much did the first stamp cost? A, 1 shilling B, 1 penny C, 1 pound

3. Where was Rowland Hill born? A, Birmingham B, London C, Kidderminster

4. What was the first stamp called? A, Penny Black B, Pound black C, Penny Red

5. Which Queen featured on the first stamp?

A, Queen Elizabeth B, Queen Victoria C, Queen Margaret

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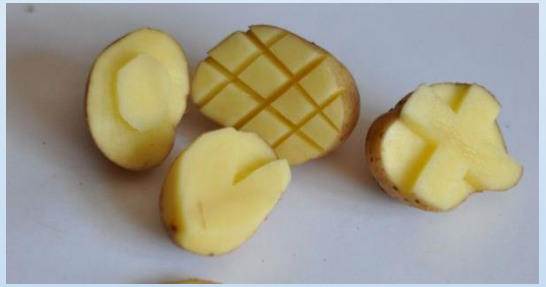
Further activity ideas





- Potato stamps

Why not cut up a potato and see what type of stamp designs you can create?
Please ask an adult to help you with the cutting.



- Write a thank you letter/card to your postman.

Postmen and women have continued to deliver our post and packages throughout this uncertain time. You could write a thank you letter to show them you are grateful for all they do! ☺





Further Activity ideas

- Create your own letter and seal.

FOLDING YOUR LETTER

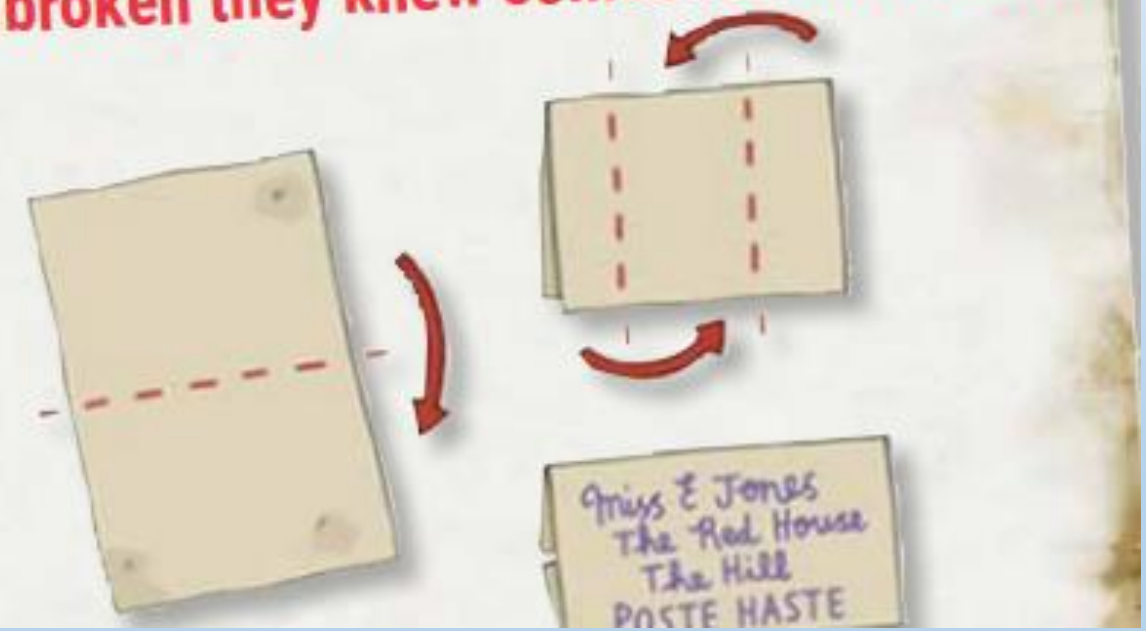
Before the introduction of the Penny Black stamp, people folded letters and sealed them. If the seal was broken they knew someone had read it!

To do:

1 Fold your letter so that no one can see what you have written

2 Write your address on the front and include the words POSTE HASTE (French for 'as fast a possible')

3 Then seal it with your special seal.



MAKING A SEAL

You will need:

- Modelling clay or Plasticine
- Items to press into the clay to make a pattern
e.g. buttons or to carve initials with
e.g. end of a slim paint brush, a pencil
- Glue to attach seal to letter

Note: you may wish to use sealing wax (available from art shops or online) melted over candles.



MAKE A SEAL

People have used seals since earliest times.

To do:

1 Make a seal by pulling off a small piece of modelling clay or Plasticine
2 Roll it into a ball and press it flat (but not too flat)
3 Press a button into the clay to make a pattern
4 When it has hardened glue it to your letter so that the letter can't be opened unless the seal is broken.



You could even have a go at making your own ink!

RECIPE FOR INK

You will need:

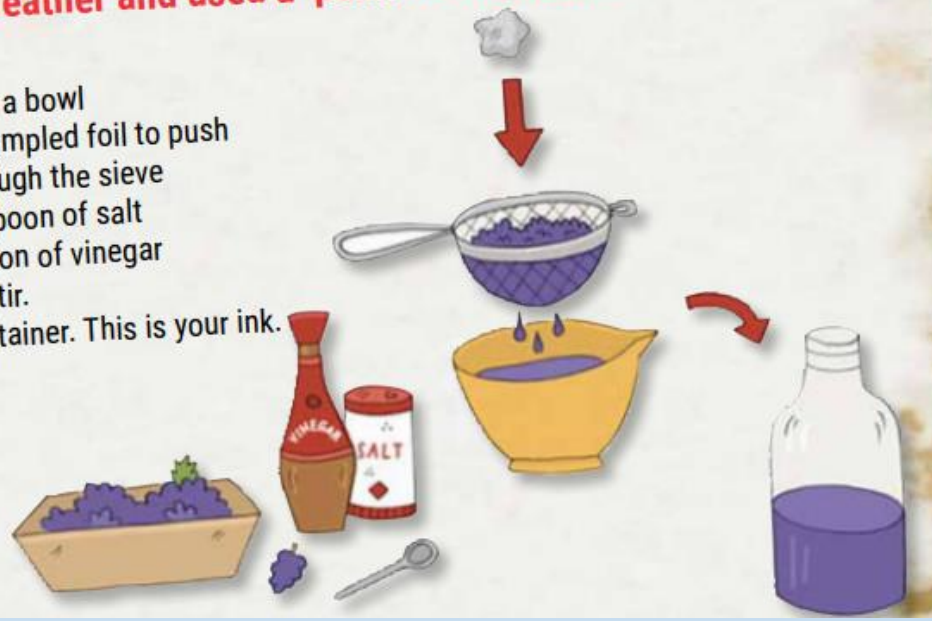
- A punnet of blackberries (or other berries, but blackberries work best)
- Sieves
- Small bowls/basins
- Something to push berries through the sieve – balls of crumpled foil work well or the back of a teaspoon
- Salt
- White vinegar
- Teaspoons
- Small containers for ink

RECIPE FOR INK

175 years ago, people made their own ink. They wrote with a quill made from a goose feather and used a 'penknife' to cut the nib.

To do:

1 Put a sieve over a bowl
2 Use a ball of crumpled foil to push a few berries through the sieve
3 Add half a teaspoon of salt and half a teaspoon of vinegar to the juice and stir.
4 Pour into a container. This is your ink.



WRITING WITH HOMEMADE INK

Now make your own tool to write with. Using your homemade ink write a letter on paper with as many different tools as you can find.

Try:

1 A twig
2 A feather
3 A kebab skewer

