



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

‘Our Golden Begining’
Key Stage 2
Learning Resources

TEACHERS NOTES

2020



HERITAGE
FUND

‘Our Golden Beginnings’

Teachers notes

Key Stage 2

This teaching resource will cover:

- ◆ Exploring the philanthropic origins of the University of Leicester (early 1900’s).
- ◆ Individual stories of those who donated to the University.
- ◆ Part of the National Heritage Lottery Funded project ‘So that they may have life’ by University of Leicester Special collections.

Connections to the National curriculum

- ◆ History
- ◆ English
- ◆ Art & Design

Learning Outcomes

- ◆ Learn about local history of Leicester between 1912-22.
- ◆ Reading comprehension activities and writing challenges.
- ◆ Expressive arts and design.

Instructions

- ◆ Pupils need to read information sheet and answer activities on worksheet.
- ◆ Split into two sections: (1) The past (2) Linking the past with the present.

Equipment needed

- ◆ Pencils, rulers, and coloring pencils.

Philanthropic origins of the University of Leicester

The idea of a University at Leicester was first proposed at the Literary & Philosophical society in the 1880's by Rev. Joseph Wood. This was not picked up until 1912 when Dr. Astley Clarke raised the previous arguments to the Literary & Philosophical society. However, when the First World War broke out in 1914 the idea for a university was subsequently pushed back.

It was not until 1917 when the idea of the university as a living memorial was put forward. This meant that the university could serve as a war memorial to those who had sacrificed their lives for freedom. In 1918 the First World War ended, and so a fundraising scheme was organized to raise funds for the university war memorial scheme. Many people in the

Leicester community donated money, furniture, books, scientific equipment etc. to the university scheme. This showed how the university was built up by the community.

Some families or individuals donated in memory of someone who fought in the First World War. The Golden Book was created in 1918 to commemorate those who donated to the University by the City School of Arts and Crafts (known now as De Montfort University). In 1919 Thomas Fielding Johnson purchased Northern General Hospital site for the university site. Eventually in 1921, the university opened to its first nine students. In 1922 the Bazaar and Fete was held to help further fundraise for money and other gifts for the university.

Case studies



Dr Elizabeth Wilks (1861-1956)- Doctor of Medicine and suffragette, Elizabeth **donated £5** in 1922 to the University. In 1894 Elizabeth qualified as a doctor at a time when women were only just allowed in this profession. Elizabeth was also involved in the struggle for women's rights in the early 1900's. Elizabeth is known for her refusal to pay tax income between 1907-10 and was a treasurer to the Tax Resistance League.

Annie Clephan (1854-1930)- An early supporter of the University College, she **bequeathed £200** to founding the University of Leicester, as well as donating many books to the University Library. Annie devoted herself to the women's suffrage movement, speaking for women's rights and fighting for women's status in the society. She also established an After-care committee for deaf, dumb and children with disabilities.



Thomas Hatton (1876-1943)- Mr. Hatton donated more than **2,000 volumes of topographical collections** to the forthcoming Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland College in 1920. The donations contain many rare and valuable collections. He collaborated with his friends and published the Nonesuch Dickens (a very popular edition of Charles Dickens) became an expert on the works of Charles Dickens.

Case studies



Gertrude Vincent (1877-1965)- Gertrude was a member of several societies in Leicester which included the Leicester Ladies Reading Society which she wrote a book on in 1932. Gertrude was vice-president of the university until 1935. Gertrude is also known for her involvement in arranging the Bazaar & Fete in 1922 to help promote and fundraise for the University. In 1929 Gertrude also arranged a puppet show. Gertrude donated a large collection of rare books including 'The Dictionary of Classical Antiquities' to the university in 1921.

Further Resources

- ◆ Our Golden Beginnings online exhibition (further information on case studies and timeline) :

<https://leicester.omeka.net/exhibits/show/our-golden-beginnings>

- ◆ University of Leicester archives and special collections:

- Digital Collections main page:

<http://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/digital/>

- Golden Book digitalized:

<http://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/digital/collection/p16445coll13/id/676/rec/1>

- Memorial portraits book:

<http://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/digital/collection/p16445coll13/id/723/rec/1>

- Astley Clarke's scrapbook:

<http://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/digital/collection/p16445coll9/id/1040>

Further Resources

- ◆ 'So that may have life' project:

<https://ourhistory.le.ac.uk/introduction/home/our-founders/>

- ◆ University of Leicester:

<https://www2.le.ac.uk/library/find/specialcollections/our-history/our-founders-1/our-founders>

- ◆ Useful Intro of University as a memorial:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rdjq26XzM8s->

- ◆ Leicester in early 1900's

- Story of Leicester:

<https://storyofleicester.info/>

- World War One Timeline:

<http://worldwartimeline.storyofleicester.info/>