

Theme: 4
Key Stage: 2

People of Blaenavon

Dear Time Traveller,



You have been chosen by your teacher to be transported back in time between the years:

1815 - 1930

Your mission is to gather information. You will need to report back to your teacher when you return to the present time.

This building was once a school - Saint Peter's School. To find out more about it you will need to travel back to the year 1815 when one of the most important men in Blaenavon, the ironmaster Samuel Hopkins, died. His sister Sarah decided to build a school in memory of her dead brother.

Ask your teacher if you can go into the reception area to find out more about this. By the door, read the panel called **St. Peter's School**. Above the panel you will see the original stone which was set up when the building opened in 1816.

In what language is the writing used on the stone?

What is meant by the words - "for the free education of his workers' children"?

What lessons were taught in the school?

Were boys and girls taught the same subjects? If not, how were they different?

Theme: 4

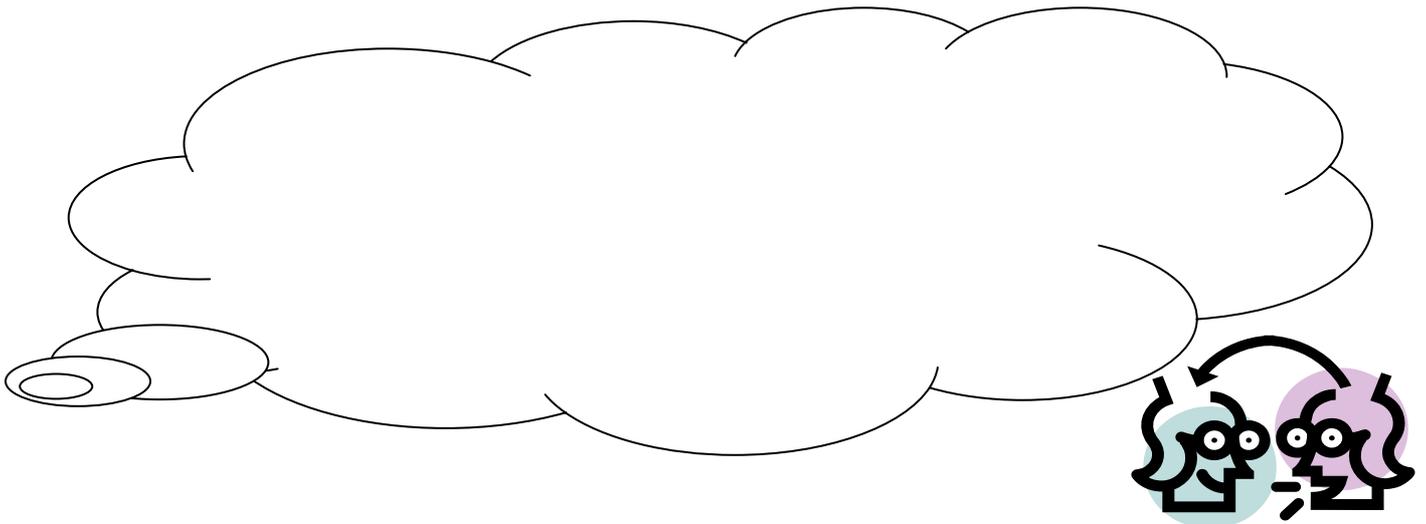
Key Stage: 2

People of Blaenavon

Not all children went to school in 1816 though.

Most children only went to school for a couple of hours on one day a week.

Can you think of some reasons why they didn't go to school most days like we do now?



Go back into the main exhibition and look at the wall display board called **Women & Children in Industry**. Using one of the touch-screens, select **Living Conditions**. Then go to the section called **A Week in the Life of a Child**. Read the diary for each day.

When were most children taught? Where did this happen?

In 1880, a new law was passed which affected all children. What happened?

Over the next 20 years, there were more changes which affected how children were taught. Write notes below about these changes next to the year that they happened.

1891

Theme: 4
Key Stage: 2

People of Blaenavon

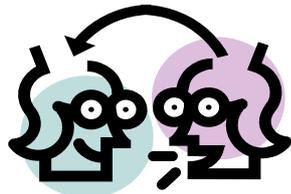
1893

1899

1901

I wonder what school was like for children about 80 years ago. Do you think it was very different to school today? How would it have been different?
Share your ideas with the others in your group.

Jot down some of your suggestions:



A good way of finding out about what really happened is to ask someone who was a child at the time. Use one of the audio phones to find out what Phyllis Roberts remembers about this building when it was Saint Peter's School.

Theme: 4

Key Stage: 2

People of Blaenavon

Make some notes about different things mentioned by Phyllis Roberts about Saint Peter's School. You will need to listen to her talk more than once!

Teachers

Subjects

Why some teachers had to leave

Were girls and boys taught together?

Class sizes

Toilets