Children then and now

How this links with the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site:
Children from as young as 7 years old worked 12 hour shifts in the mills as ‘scavengers’ (crawling under the machines) and ‘doffers’ (removing bobbins from the spinning frames when they were full and replacing them with empty ones). Arkwright advertised for large families to come and work in his mills in Cromford and all the mills had communities built up around them to house the workers. It was important that the children could do their 3 R’s (reading, ‘riting and ‘rithmetic) so children were taught on a Sunday, sometimes in the attics of the mill buildings, and later taught in specially built schools. Life was very different for the children in the 1800s than it is for children today!

You will need:
- Pencils
- Coloured Card
- Plain paper from sketch book
- Scissors
- Glue
- Wool
- Pencil crayons
- Inspiration pictures (see below)

How to have a go:

Step 1:
- Take a piece of A4 card
- Fold it in half lengthways
- Cut down the middle to make a long strip
### Step 2:
- Fold the strip in half
- Fold it in half again
- You will have a concertina of four pieces

![Step 2 Image]

### Step 3:
- Draw the shape of a child onto your card.
- Make sure that the hands and feet touch the edges of the card (look at the * on the picture)
- Keep the card folded and cut out the shape of the child
- Don’t cut where the hands and toes touch the edge so the card stays connected on the folds.

![Step 3 Image]

### Step 4:
- Carefully open out the card
- You will have four children holding hands in a row.

![Step 4 Image]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step 5:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| - Look at the pictures of mill worker children.  
  - The girls would wear aprons, long skirts and tops with frilly collars and the boys would wear woollen suits and often a flat cap.  
  - Decorate two of your children as mill workers from the 1800s. You can colour in, draw on, cut out pieces of paper and glue them on. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step 6:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| - Think about how children dress today.  
  - Using your crayons, wool, coloured card and pencils decorate the other two children to look like they are from the present day. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step 7:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Cut out four speech bubble shapes from plain paper.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step 8:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| - Write what each of the children might say in a speech bubble and stick it onto the back of their head.  
  - Think about how they would spend their time, what they might get in trouble for, what they might enjoy, what was easy or difficult for them. |
Step 9:

- Write the speech bubbles for your modern children. Again think about how they spend their time, what they like to do, what they get in trouble for, what they are allowed to do or not do.
- Stand up your mill and modern children and display them on a windowsill or shelf.
## Using Belper British Girls School Strutt School Admission Records – April 13th 1818

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Names</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Residence</th>
<th>Father’s trade</th>
<th>Admission</th>
<th>Left on</th>
<th>Observations, reasons for leaving</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Davies Susan</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Long Row</td>
<td>Employed in coal pit</td>
<td>July 6 1818</td>
<td>Jan 1822</td>
<td>Went to the Mill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davies Eliza</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Long Row</td>
<td>Employed in coal pit</td>
<td>Jul 6 1818</td>
<td>Sept 1818</td>
<td>Wanted at home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davies Harriet</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Short Rows</td>
<td>Collier</td>
<td>May 23 1818</td>
<td>Mar 1831</td>
<td>Gone to the Mill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furnace Lydia</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Long Row</td>
<td>Labourer</td>
<td>March 1823</td>
<td>April 1825</td>
<td>To the Mill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frost Frances</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Field Row</td>
<td>Stockinger</td>
<td>March 5 1826</td>
<td>March 16 1827</td>
<td>Gone to the Mill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ford Alice</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Clusters</td>
<td>Overlocker</td>
<td>May 1 1827</td>
<td>June 3 1831</td>
<td>Gone to the Mill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flint Emma</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Common Side</td>
<td>Nailer</td>
<td>Oct 4 1829</td>
<td>March 4 1831</td>
<td>Gone to the Mill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ford Eliza</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Mount Pleasant</td>
<td>Weaver</td>
<td>April 1821</td>
<td>June 1821</td>
<td>Went to work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davies Sarah</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Cluster Buildings</td>
<td>Collier</td>
<td>Nov 29 1825</td>
<td>May 20 1826</td>
<td>Wanted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Using Strutt School Admissions of Belper British School for Boys 1818-1839

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Names</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Residence</th>
<th>Father’s trade</th>
<th>Admission</th>
<th>Left on</th>
<th>Observations, reasons for leaving</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bond George</td>
<td>7½</td>
<td>Short Rows</td>
<td>Bricklayer</td>
<td>May 18 1818</td>
<td>April 20 1821</td>
<td>Gone to work at Mill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bond John</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Short Rows</td>
<td>Bricklayer</td>
<td>May 18 1818</td>
<td>Nov 12 1822</td>
<td>Gone to work at Mill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridges Benjamin</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Long Row</td>
<td>Tailor</td>
<td>January 2 1832</td>
<td>Sept 15 1838</td>
<td>Wanted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridges William</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Long Row</td>
<td>Tailor</td>
<td>March 1 1830</td>
<td>August 10 1834</td>
<td>Gone to Mill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridges John</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Long Row</td>
<td>Tailor</td>
<td>March 30 1841</td>
<td>October 29 1841</td>
<td>Gone to work with his father</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Booth Joshua</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Short Rows</td>
<td>Nailer</td>
<td>July 20 1835</td>
<td>Dec 20 1839</td>
<td>Gone to work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burgess William</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Long Row</td>
<td>Soldier</td>
<td>March 28 1827</td>
<td>March 2 1839</td>
<td>Left town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Booth George</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Cluster Buildings</td>
<td>Wood turner</td>
<td>May 22 1836</td>
<td>March 1 1844</td>
<td>Gone to the Mill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barlow John</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Long Row</td>
<td>School Master</td>
<td>June 13 1831</td>
<td>March 24 1840</td>
<td>Gone to the Mill</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Factory Rules and Forfeits – Keeping Control
When people first came together to work in the cotton mills, the employers felt they must control their workforce by having very strict rules of behaviour. The overseer kept discipline and gave out fines for any bad behaviour. These lists are some of the activities that got people into trouble. Their misdemeanours were recorded in the wages stopped books.

#### Absence:
- Running away
- Being off drinking
- Off without leave at wakes
- Being off at Heage Feast with a pretence of being ill
- Off at Derby Races without leave.

#### Theft of Mill property:
- Stealing candles and oil
- Stealing yarn
- Making good yarn into waste and pocketing it
- Stealing nails.

#### Destruction or damage of Mill property:
- Breaking a Drawing Frame
- Setting fire to a lamp cupboard
- Tearing roller clothes willfully
- Stuffing a stove tunnel up
- Putting good cotton in the dust.

#### Failure to do work as required:
- Leaving her machine dirty
- Leaving his dust room dirty
- Weighing sorts wrong and being saucy when told of it
- Tying bad knots
- Neglecting their work.

#### Falling to comply with Mill discipline:
- Idleness and looking thro’ window
- Calling thro’ window to some soldiers
- Riding on each others back
- Telling lies to Mr Jedediah
- Sending for ale into the room.

#### Misconduct outside working hours:
- For putting Josh Haynes’ dog into a bucket of hot water
- Rubbing their faces with blood and going about town to frighten people
- Attempting to defraud Messrs Strutts by changing bad money for good.

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Rest of images credit: DVMWHS Learning Pack: What was it like to live in Belper in the past?
Please let us know what you think of this activity and share your work with us

When you have had a go at this activity, we’d love to hear what you think, or see your work. Please send us any feedback below by 12\textsuperscript{th} October 2020.

**Post us your work** – If you would like to post us any of your work or let us know what you think of this activity with a note with your name and address (and age if you’d like to share that). We are hoping to have an exhibition in the Autumn on one of the mill sites of the work created by people all along the valley. We will return all your work to you after the exhibition.

**Postal address:**

Georgina Greaves (DVMWHS Creativity Packs)
Derbyshire County Council
North Block S7 - County Hall
Matlock
Derbyshire DE4 3AG

**Send us a photo** – Email a photo of your creation to info@derwentvalleymills.org

**Social Media** – If you use social media use #DVMWHSCreativity and post the images of your work and tag us at:

- Facebook: @DerwentValleyMillsWHS
- Twitter: @DVMillsWHS
- Instagram: @DerwentValleyMillsWHS

**Hope you enjoy doing this craft activity!**