



ENGLISH HERITAGE  
EDUCATION

## TEACHERS' KIT

### Marble Hill

This kit helps teachers plan a visit to Marble Hill, a Palladian riverside mansion set in pleasure gardens and landscaped grounds designed for Henrietta Howard, a key figure in Georgian culture and politics. Use these resources before, during and after your visit to help students get the most out of their learning.

KS1-2

KS3

KS4+



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Step into England's story

# WELCOME

This Teachers' Kit for Marble Hill has been designed for teachers and group leaders to support a free self-led visit to the site. It includes a variety of materials suited to teaching a wide range of subjects and key stages, with practical information, activities for use on site and ideas to support follow-up learning.

We know that each class and study group is different, so we have collated our resources into one kit allowing you to decide which materials are best suited to your needs. Please use the contents page, which has been colour-coded to help you easily locate what you need and view individual sections. All of our activities have clear guidance on the intended use for study so you can adapt them for your desired learning outcomes.

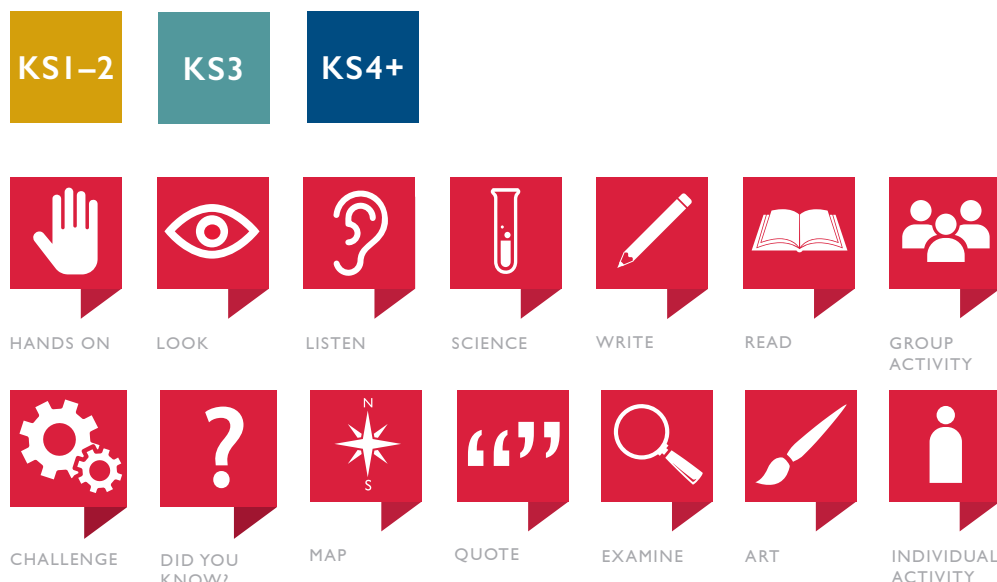
To further aid your planning, we have created Hazard Information, which you can download from the Marble Hill Schools page. Here you can also find additional information and opportunities for schools related to Marble Hill.

We hope you enjoy your visit and find this Teachers' Kit useful. If you have any queries please don't hesitate to get in touch with a member of our team either via [bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk) or on 0370 333 0606.

English Heritage Learning Team

## ICON KEY

The icons below will help you quickly identify the types of activities and information presented.



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KS1-2

KS3

KS4+

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# PRE-VISIT

Information and activities you can use in the classroom before your visit.



# MARBLE HILL

## SITE MAP



### KEY TO SITE

- |                           |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>1</b> Whitelodge gate  | <b>6</b> Black walnut tree |
| <b>2</b> House            | <b>7</b> Grotto            |
| <b>3</b> Coach House Café | <b>8</b> Ninepin alley     |
| <b>4</b> Icehouse         | <b>9</b> Car Park gate     |
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### FACILITIES

- |         |                    |
|---------|--------------------|
| Café    | Accessible parking |
| Toilets | Car park           |



ENGLISH HERITAGE  
EDUCATION

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

DISCOVER THE STORY OF  
MARBLE HILL

Below is a short history of Marble Hill. Use this information to learn how the site has changed over time. You'll find the definitions of the key words in the Glossary.

### WHO WAS HENRIETTA HOWARD?

Marble Hill was built in the 1720s for Henrietta Howard, a key figure in the 18th-century **Georgian court**. Henrietta was a **patron** of architecture and the arts. After a long career at court, she used Marble Hill as her restful retreat.

Henrietta was born in 1689 and grew up at Blickling Hall in Norfolk. When she was nine her father, **Sir Henry Hobart**, was killed in a duel. Three years later her mother died and it is thought that she moved to **Audley End** or Gunnersbury, homes of Henry Howard, 5th Earl of Suffolk, who was connected to Henrietta's family through marriage.

When she was sixteen, in 1706, Henrietta married **Charles Howard**, one of the Earl of Suffolk's younger sons. He was fourteen years her senior, though this type of age gap was not unusual at the time. Their only son, Henry, was born the following year.

Charles turned out to be a violent man, a gambler and a drunk. He was in debt and dropped out of his position in the army. With no money, he sued Henrietta's trustees for her fortune of £6,000. Hounded by creditors wanting repayment, Charles and Henrietta moved around renting shabby houses under false names and staying with friends. Charles often stayed away, leaving Henrietta alone with her newborn son, struggling to pay for food.



Painting of Henrietta Howard  
by Charles Jervas in c.1724.



## JOINING THE ROYAL COURT

In the hope of securing a better future, in 1714 Henrietta and Charles went to Hanover in Germany. As a result of the 1701 **Act of Settlement**, if **Queen Anne** (r.1702–14), died without children the British throne would pass to the nearest **Protestant** blood relation. This was **Sophia, dowager Electress of Hanover**.

In Hanover, Henrietta got on well with the Electress Sophia and she promised Henrietta the position of **Woman of the Bedchamber** if the Electress became queen. Unfortunately, later that year the Electress died, just two months before Queen Anne. Electress Sophia's son, Georg Ludwig, ascended to the throne, becoming **King George I** (r.1714–27).

Georg came to London to be crowned with his son, another George, who became the **Prince of Wales**. The prince's wife, **Caroline, Princess of Wales**, kept the Electress's promise to appoint Henrietta as Woman of the Bedchamber. Henrietta's husband, Charles, was made a **Groom of the Bedchamber** to the king the same year.



Queen Anne had no surviving children when she died, so the British throne passed to the kings of Hanover. Portrait by Sir Godfrey Kneller, Bt, NPG 1616, (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0). © National Portrait Gallery, London



King George I fought bitterly with his son, the Prince of Wales. Portrait by Sir Godfrey Kneller, Bt, NPG 544, (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0). © National Portrait Gallery, London

## SEPARATION AND A NEW RELATIONSHIP

The Howards were now more secure financially and had a roof over their heads at St James's Palace but Charles continued to treat Henrietta badly.

In December 1717, after a terrible row, George I ordered the Prince of Wales to leave the palace. Charles stayed with the king and Henrietta left with the Prince and Princess of Wales. As revenge for not staying with him, Charles stopped Henrietta seeing their son and raised him to hate her.

In 1718 Henrietta moved to **Leicester House** with the Prince and Princess of Wales. Here she began a relationship with the Prince of Wales.



Colen Campbell's illustrations of Marble Hill, entitled 'A house in Twickenham', published in *Vitruvius Britannicus* in 1725. Campbell's exact role in the design of the house is unclear.

## BUILDING MARBLE HILL

In 1723 the Prince of Wales presented Henrietta with £11,500 of **stock in trust** (from the **South Sea Company** and the **Bank of England**), together with expensive jewellery and furniture. Now that she had some financial independence, Henrietta began secretly planning to build a house of her own, independently of her husband. Soon afterwards Henrietta wrote to the playwright **John Gay** begging him to keep quiet about a 'plan' which he saw in her room, writing: 'There's a

*necessity, yet, to keep that whole affair secret...*' The plan was almost certainly one of the early designs for her house at Marble Hill in Twickenham.

By the 18th century many large houses had been built on the banks of the river Thames between Hampton Court and Kew. Wealthy aristocrats wanted to escape the hustle and bustle of London and were drawn to the area's royal connections – it was close to Hampton Court and Richmond Lodge. In March 1724 one of the trustees of the prince's settlement, Lord Ilay, purchased eleven and a half acres in Twickenham for Henrietta to begin her build.

## PALLADIAN VILLA & GARDEN OF THE ANCIENTS

Both the house and garden were designed with advice from the most fashionable gentlemen of early Georgian England. The builder-architect was **Roger Morris**.

It is not known for certain who designed the house but it has been suggested that the 'architect earl' **Henry Herbert, 9th Earl of Pembroke**, and the leading 18th-century architect **Colen Campbell**

were involved. Henrietta almost certainly added her own ideas as well. The house was built in the new **Palladian** style, using proportion, symmetry and columns, inspired by the architecture of ancient Rome. It was the cutting edge of 18th-century fashion.

The future royal gardener **Charles Bridgeman** and the poet **Alexander Pope** worked on the gardens. Their idea was to create a **pleasure ground** for Henrietta to entertain her guests and enjoy the peace and fresh air of the countryside. Their design was inspired by the gardens of classical Greece and Rome, a 'garden of the Ancients', with **groves** of trees, terraces down to the river, and **grottoes**. Here Henrietta hoped to one day have a peaceful rural escape from court life.



The hall with columns, a feature of Palladian design.

## HARRASSED BY CHARLES

As Henrietta was building her new home, her husband's situation was worsening. When George I died in 1727, Charles Howard no longer had a master to serve and found himself unemployed. Needing money, he set about harassing Henrietta. The Prince and Princess of Wales became King George II and Queen Caroline, so Henrietta now served the queen. One night, Charles stormed the palace and threatened to forcefully remove Henrietta from Queen Caroline's service.



A portrait of George II c.1738 by Charles Philips, on display at Marble Hill.

The queen, finding him 'so brutal, as well as a little mad, and seldom quite sober' feared 'he might throw me out of that window'. Shortly afterwards, the king increased Henrietta's allowance from £2,000 to £3,200. She agreed to pass on the difference to her husband, and he in turn signed a legal separation, in February 1728. Separation in marriage could be scandalous at this time so the fact that Henrietta did this shows how desperate her situation was. Payments for building the house at Marble Hill continued from August 1728 and final payment was made for the completed house in 1729. Henrietta, however, was obliged to remain in Caroline's service.

## DESPERATE TO LEAVE COURT

In 1731 Henrietta became Countess of Suffolk, and the queen gave her a new appointment as **Mistress of the Robes**, to suit her new aristocratic title. The new position gave her more income and more free time, and increased her chances of being able to support herself at Marble Hill in the future.

In 1733 Charles Howard died and Henrietta no longer needed the protection of the royal court. Unfortunately, Caroline refused to accept her resignation. However events worked in Henrietta's favour – in 1734, she spent six weeks in Bath, a popular Georgian pleasure destination, where she was joined by Alexander Pope and other friends. Rumour reached the king that she had met with **Lord Bolingbroke**, the **Tory** and political rival of the prime minister, **Robert Walpole**, a close ally to the king. As punishment for socialising with political enemies, Henrietta was dismissed from the royal court.



A mezzotint of Caroline Wilhelmina of Brandenburg-Ansbach by John Simon; after Sir Godfrey Kneller, Bt, (1716) NPG D27415, (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0). © National Portrait Gallery, London





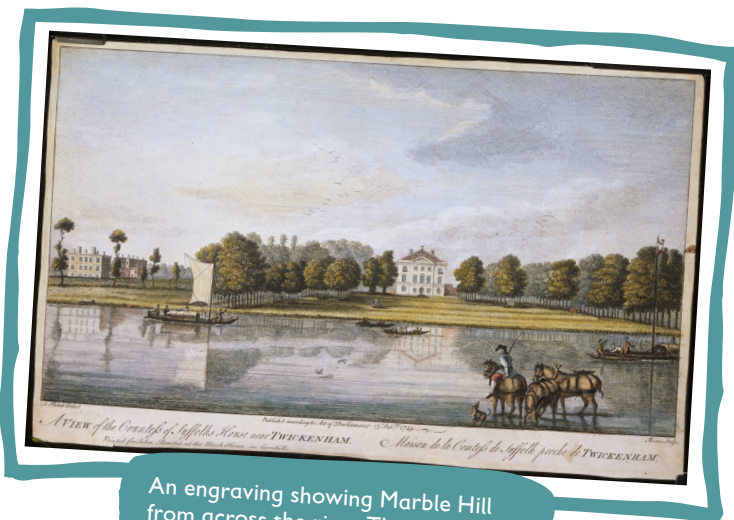
## RIVERSIDE RETREAT

Henrietta left her apartments at Kensington Palace in November 1734, after twenty years at court, aged forty-five. Free at last from court service and from a violent husband, at Marble Hill Henrietta was finally free to entertain her friends. She could at last enjoy her pleasure ground, playing bowls and hosting dinners on the lawns. Henrietta and her home became a magnet for courtiers, politicians and famous figures from London's cultural scene – including her neighbour Alexander Pope, John Gay and Jonathan Swift. Pope observed *'There is a greater Court now at Marble Hill than in Kensington.'*



An illustration by Jill Calder showing Henrietta in the Great Room at Marble Hill.

In 1735, Henrietta soon found happiness in a second marriage, to **George Berkeley**, the brother of her close friend. The couple were devoted to each other and hated to be separated. Both were challenged with disability – Henrietta had suffered from deafness since some time in her late twenties or early thirties and Berkeley from **gout** – but they didn't let it impact on their enjoyment of a quieter life in the countryside. Henrietta wrote to a friend that George *'...rides, walks, and reads; for smoking, drinking and hunting I take to be the life of a country brute'*. Later in 1735, Henrietta's nephew John and niece Dorothy Hobart, the children of Henrietta's brother John whose first wife had died in 1727, came to live at Marble Hill and Henrietta had the family life she had so longed for.



An engraving showing Marble Hill from across the river Thames.

In the 1740s she added an extensive service wing to the house and in 1763 Dorothy's daughter, Henrietta Hotham (1753–1816), came to live with Henrietta. The young Henrietta (who was named after her great-aunt) enjoyed a happy childhood at Marble Hill, entertaining Henrietta Howard's many guests with impressions and games.



## TWICKENHAM SET

The river had long been a source of inspiration for poets, gardeners and artists. Alexander Pope lived in Twickenham from 1719 and was a regular visitor at Marble Hill. Known as the 'wasp of Twickenham' for his biting wit, he was often visited by his friends Jonathan Swift and John Gay. The three writers were called the 'three Yahoos of Twickenham' after creatures in Swift's famous story *Gulliver's Travels*. All three were friends of Henrietta's, who loved poetry, novels and plays, and they sometimes dined together at Marble Hill.

Swift later fell out with Henrietta, believing she hadn't helped connect him with her wealthy and influential friends at court. Pope and Henrietta's friendship also cooled in later years as she spent more time with her new husband. They may have fallen out after Pope asked her to return his letters, as he was collecting them for publication, and she refused.

Pope died in 1744. Two years later, after eleven years of marriage, George Berkeley also died.



John Gay ('Mr Gay, author of the Beggar's Opera') after William Aikman. Mezzotint, late 18th- early 19th century. NPG D34393, (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0). © National Portrait Gallery, London

## HENRIETTA & HORACE WALPOLE

After Pope's death in 1744, Horace Walpole became the centre of the literary circle at Twickenham. In 1747 he bought the lease of a house in Twickenham that he was to transform into **Strawberry Hill**. He became a regular visitor, hungry for Henrietta's stories about old court life, which he collected in notebooks. Horace seems to have rekindled Henrietta's interest in decorating and building. In 1755 she created a new dining room lined with **Chinese paper**. In 1758, Walpole advised Henrietta on the building of a barn, the 'Priory of St Hubert', dedicated to the patron saint of hunting. Henrietta had hunted with the **maids of honour** at court well into her forties. The two square towers of the building were designed by Henrietta herself.

On 25 July 1767, Walpole made his last visit. Henrietta died the following day, aged seventy-eight.



A reproduction from 2006 of the Chinese wallpaper that Henrietta hung in the dining parlour.







## 20th CENTURY: A PLACE FOR THE PUBLIC

Marble Hill, now a public park, opened on 30 May 1903. Across the 20th century the house was adapted and altered to provide visitor facilities. Rooms on the ground floor served as a tea room, kitchen and changing rooms, and those on the first floor as the park-keeper's flat. The large service wing built by Henrietta Howard to the east of the house was demolished in 1909.



People still enjoy using the park for sports and fitness today.

The park has a long history of use for sports and games; tug of war, football, rugby, hockey and cricket have all been played in the park since the early 20th century. In the First World War men of the 2nd Battalion Middlesex Volunteer Regiment could be seen parading in the grounds, and in the Second World War allotments were created to help the public grow their own food.

Following architectural **restoration** in the 1960s that aimed to return the house to its appearance in Henrietta Howard's day, Marble Hill reopened as a historic house museum under the Greater London Council.

In 1986 the house and estate passed to English Heritage.

## 21st CENTURY: MARBLE HILL REVIVED

Between 2015 and 2022 an exciting project called 'Marble Hill Revived' took place at Marble Hill. This project, made possible with a grant of £5 million from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and £3 million investment from English Heritage, saw a range of improvements to the house and park.

This included investing in the house and the landscape, creating new habitats to improve the park's biodiversity, and upgrading the sports pitches and facilities.



Following paint research and analysis the outside of the house has been painted a more historically authentic 'lead white' colour.



# GLOSSARY

TRICKY TERMS AND  
WHAT THEY MEAN

Below is a list of words you might come across while exploring Marble Hill. Use this Glossary to find out what they mean.

**Act of Settlement** – an act of Parliament passed in 1701 that ruled that only Protestants could succeed to the English and Irish crowns. It ended any claims by the Catholic descendants of Charles I. If the reigning monarch, Queen Anne (r.1702–14), died without children the British throne would pass to the nearest Protestant blood relation. The next Protestant in line was the Electress Sophia of Hanover, a granddaughter of James I of England and Ireland.

**Alexander Pope** – (1688–1744) leading poet and satirist of the English Augustan period (a style of British literature produced during the reigns of Queen Anne, King George I and George II in the first half of the 18th century and ending in the 1740s)

**Audley End** – once one of the greatest houses in England. An early 17th-century mansion set in landscaped parkland, it is now cared for by English Heritage.

**Bank of England** – founded as a private, joint-stock bank in 1694 to act as banker to the government, lending money to ease government debt and raise funds for wars and other public spending. Some governors and directors of the bank in the 18th century were or had been owners of slaves or were linked to slave trading. Today the bank is owned by the UK government.

**Caroline, Princess of Wales** – Caroline of Brandenburg-Ansbach (1683–1737), born into a German noble family and raised at the court of King Frederick I and Queen Sophia Charlotte of Prussia. She married George Augustus, **heir** to the Electorate of Hanover and third in line to the British throne; she later became queen consort as the wife of King George II.



An illustration of Alexander Pope by Jill Calder.

**Charles Bridgeman** – one of the first landscape gardeners to move away from strict, formal designs towards the more natural landscape style of the Georgian period. He designed many iconic landscapes including the Round Pond (1728) and the Serpentine (1731) for Queen Caroline; he was responsible for the gardens at Hampton Court, St James's Palace and Windsor Castle.

**Charles Howard** – (1685–1733) an English nobleman, politician and army captain. In 1731, he succeeded his brother Edward as Earl of Suffolk, becoming the ninth earl.

**Chinese paper** – hand-painted wallpaper that features Chinese-themed images such as birds, bamboo and flowers

**Colen Campbell** – (1676–1729) a pioneering Scottish architect and architectural writer. The success of his book of architectural designs, *Vitruvius Britannicus*, helped to popularise neo-Palladian architecture in Great Britain during the 18th century.

**court** – the royal household: people who lived with the king and/or queen

**estate(s)** – an area of land or property

**George Berkeley** – (1693?–1746) a British politician who sat in the House of Commons for 26 years from 1720 to 1746. At first Berkeley supported Robert Walpole as prime minister (who was backed by George II) but he later switched loyalties to William Pulteney, who opposed Walpole's government. He was the son of Charles Berkeley, 2nd Earl of Berkeley.

**Georg Ludwig/King George I** – (1660–1727) King of Great Britain and Ireland from 1 August 1714 and ruler of the Duchy and Electorate of Brunswick-Lüneburg (Hanover) in the Holy Roman Empire from 23 January 1698 until his death. He was the first British monarch of the House of Hanover.

**Georgian** – of/during the reigns of the Kings George I–IV (1714–1830)

**gout** – a disease that causes arthritis, especially in the feet, and episodes of severe pain

**Groom of the Bedchamber** – a position in the household of the monarch, responsible for attending the king in the chamber when he dressed. Men in this role were close to the king and were occasionally sent overseas as special envoys.

**grotto** – an artificial cave in a park or garden

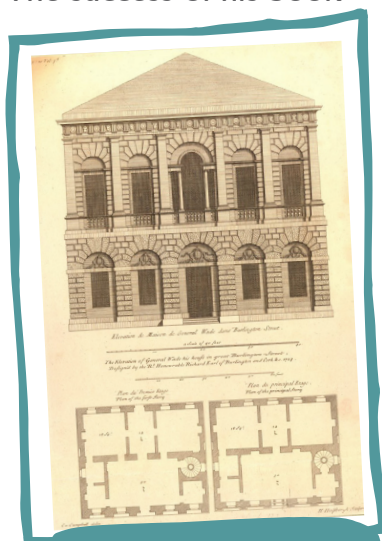
**grove** – a small wood or other group of trees

**Henry Herbert, 9th Earl of Pembroke** – (1693–1750) a member of the nobility and a courtier. As well as Marble Hill, Lord Herbert designed the Column of Victory at Blenheim Palace and the White Lodge, Richmond.

**Sir Henry Hobart** – (1657–98) 4th baronet; Hobart was Gentleman of the Horse to King William III and later Vice-Admiral of Norfolk. On 20 August 1698, Hobart fought a duel with Oliver Le Neve on Cawston Heath and died of his wounds.

**heir** – a person who is legally entitled to the family estates

**John Gay** – (1685–1732) an English poet and dramatist. He is best remembered for *The Beggar's Opera* (1728), a satirical ballad opera which pokes fun at Sir Robert Walpole.



A page from Campbell's *Vitruvius Britannicus*.



**Jonathan Peel** – (1799–1879) a British soldier, Conservative politician and racehorse owner. Peel was a Member of Parliament, rising to Secretary of State for the War Department. He was the brother of Sir Robert Peel – twice British prime minister.

**Leicester House** – a large town house in Westminster, London. Built by the Earl of Leicester and completed in 1635, it was later used by the Hanoverian Princes of Wales. The house was sold and demolished in 1791.

**Lord Bolingbroke** – Henry St John, 1st Viscount Bolingbroke (1678–1751), a politician, government official and political philosopher. He was a leader of the Tories



A portrait of Henry St John, 1st Viscount Bolingbroke by an unknown French artist c.1712-14. NPG 593, (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0). © National Portrait Gallery, London

and supported the Jacobite rebellion of 1715 which sought to overthrow the new king George I. He escaped to France and continued to support the Stuart cause.

Parliament declared him guilty of treason, but he sought a pardon from the king and was allowed to return to England in 1723.

**Maid of honour** – the junior, female attendants of a queen in the royal household. Usually they were young women who had never been married and were members of the nobility.

**Mistress of the Robes** – a senior position in the royal household, responsible for the queen's clothes and jewellery. The role was a political appointment, changing with the government, and was held by high-ranking members of the nobility.

**Orleans House** – a mansion built in 1710 for James Johnston, joint Secretary of State for Scotland, and one of the first important villas along this stretch of the Thames between Hampton Court and Kew. Both George I and George II visited, and Queen Caroline and her children dined at the house in 1729.

**Palladian** – an architectural style inspired by the buildings of ancient Rome, named after the 16th-century Italian architect, Andrea Palladio

**patron** – a person who gives money or other support to a person, organisation or cause

**pleasure ground** – a piece of land designed for leisure and enjoyment, often including areas for outdoor games

**pollinator** – an insect that moves pollen from the male anther of a flower to the female stigma of a flower

**Prince of Wales** – since the 14th century, the title granted by the king or queen to the heir to the English or British monarch

**Princess of Wales** – the title of the wife of the Prince of Wales

**Protestant** – someone who disagrees with Catholic teachings; a member of a Christian religious movement against the established Roman Catholic church

**Queen Anne** – (1665–1714) Queen of England, Scotland and Ireland between 1702 and 1707. The 1707 Acts of Union united the kingdoms of England and Scotland as a single sovereign state known as Great Britain. She continued to reign as Queen of Great Britain and Ireland until her death in 1714. Despite many pregnancies none of her children survived and she was the last monarch of the House of Stuart.





**restoration** – returning something to its original condition

**Robert Walpole** – (1676–1745), later Sir Robert Walpole, a country gentleman, politician and the first prime minister of Great Britain. He stood for the Whig party. He holds the record as the longest-serving British prime minister and during his long time in government developed an effective working relationship between the Crown and Parliament.

**Roger Morris** – (1695–1749) an English architect. Roger began his career training as a bricklayer and went on to secure patronage from the nobility. As well as Marble Hill, he was involved in the building of the White Lodge in Richmond Park, the Column of Victory at Blenheim Palace, and Clearwell Castle.

**Sophia, dowager Electress** – Sophie von der Pfalz (1630–1714), daughter of Frederick V, Elector Palatine of the Rhine and of Elizabeth, daughter of the English king James I. She was the closest Protestant heir to the British throne after Queen Anne.

**South Sea Company** – a company of shareholders founded in 1711 to raise funds to pay off government debt. To make income, in 1713 the company was granted a monopoly (the Asiento de



An early cloth trade label of the South Sea Company. Unknown author. © Public domain

Negros) to supply African slaves to the islands in the 'South Seas' (South America and its surrounding waters). In 1715 the Prince of Wales was elected as governor of the company and was a major shareholder. In 1720 the company suddenly collapsed, ruining thousands of investors; the event

became known as the South Sea Bubble. An investigation revealed widespread fraud among the company directors and corruption in the Cabinet.

**stock in trust** – hold something in trust; when a person or party (the trustor) gives another person or party (the trustee) the right to hold property or assets for the benefit of a third party (the beneficiary). In this case, Henrietta was the beneficiary and the Prince of Wales was the trustor. Stocks are amounts of shares held in a company; share certificates show that the shareholder owns part of the company. Shares have a financial value that changes according to the overall value of the company.



Strawberry Hill House, showing Gothic-style towers and spires. Gary Ullah, (CC BY 2.0)

**Strawberry Hill** – the Gothic Revival (an architectural movement that was influenced by medieval Gothic architecture) mansion that was built in Twickenham by Horace Walpole from 1749 onwards

**Tory** – a member of the political party that opposed the exclusion of Catholic James II from the succession to the British Crown. Tories generally held conservative values and opposed the liberalism of the Whig party.

**Woman of the Bedchamber** – a lady-in-waiting position in the royal household, usually a member of the nobility, who helped the queen bathe, get dressed and undressed



# GEORGIANS

1714–1837

**1702–14**

Reign of Queen Anne.

**1714–27**

Reign of George I.

**1717**

After a row, George I orders the Prince of Wales to leave the palace.

**1718**

The Prince and Princess of Wales and their court move to Leicester House.

**1727–60**

Reign of George II.

**1760–1820**

Reign of George III.

**1700**

**1701**

Henrietta Hobart moves to either Audley End or Gunnersbury, homes of Henry Howard, 5th Earl of Suffolk.

**1706**

Henrietta marries Charles Howard.

**1714**

Henrietta and Charles travel to Hanover to try to join the royal court.

**1723**

The Prince of Wales presents Henrietta with £11,500 of stocks.

**1724–9**

The building of Henrietta's house at Marble Hill.

**1728**

Henrietta and Charles legally separate.

**1734**

Henrietta is dismissed from court and is finally able to enjoy her retreat at Marble Hill.

**1735**

Henrietta marries George Berkeley.

**1740s**

Henrietta adds a service wing to the house.

**1763**

Henrietta Hotham comes to live at Marble Hill.

**1767**

Henrietta dies. Marble Hill passes to her nephew, John Hobart, 2nd Earl of Buckinghamshire, who lets it to tenants before moving in himself in 1772.

**1793**

John Hobart dies and the estate passes to Henrietta Hotham.

**18TH  
CENTURY**



ENGLISH HERITAGE  
EDUCATION

GEORGIANS  
1714–1837

VICTORIANS  
1837–1901

WW1  
1914–18

WW2  
1939–45

1820–30

Reign of George IV.

1830–37

Reign of William IV.

1837–1901

Reign of Queen Victoria.

1901–10

Reign of King Edward VII.



1952–2022

Reign of Queen Elizabeth II.



1800

1900

1816

Henrietta Hotham dies and Marble Hill passes to the 5th Earl of Buckinghamshire, who lets the house to tenants.

1901

Builders start laying out sewers and roads for a large development of new houses on the site.

1824

The estate is broken up, the contents of the house removed, and the house and estate sold.

1902

The Richmond, Ham and Petersham Open Spaces Act protects Marble Hill from development.

1825

The estate is bought by Jonathan Peel. Peel's wife, Alice, occupies Marble Hill longer than anyone, keeping the estate until she dies in 1887.

1903

Marble Hill opens as a public park.

1888

The house and estate are advertised for sale and stand empty for ten years.

1960s

After restoration work, the house reopens as a historic house museum under the Greater London Council.

1898

Marble Hill is bought by William Cunard.

1986

The house and estate pass to English Heritage.

19TH  
CENTURY

20TH  
CENTURY

# MARBLE HILL TIMELINE



# SELF-LED ACTIVITY

## TOURING

## TWICKENHAM



**KS2**

**KS3**

### Recommended for

KS2–3 (Geography, History, English)

### Learning objectives

- Use source material to build a sense of 18th-century Twickenham.
- Explore maps, locate places and practise geographical vocabulary.
- Identify some of the characters in Henrietta Howard's world.

### Time to complete

Approx. 60 minutes



A historical map showing the fields now occupied by Marble Hill in 1711.  
© National Records of Scotland (RHP/13256/67)

### SUMMARY

By the early 18th century, the village of Twickenham had become one of the most desirable places to live for anyone who wanted to get away from the smells and noise of London.

It was located only around 10 miles south-west of the capital, just two hours by barge, and offered a tranquil escape for those seeking a retreat from court, while still being within easy access of it.

The poet, Alexander Pope (1688–1744) wrote, 'At Twickenham the World goes otherwise. We have as little politicks here within a few miles of court...as at Southampton.'

This activity gives students the opportunity to explore 18th-century Twickenham and some of the people who lived there, alongside Henrietta Howard.

### SUGGESTED APPROACH

Use the Teachers' Notes on pages 21–22 to guide you through this activity. It begins with an exploration of sources to establish a foundation of knowledge about Twickenham in the 18th century. It then moves on to map skills with students observing, locating and communicating about the area, comparing then and now. Finally students can discover some of Henrietta Howard's 'Notable Neighbours', before creating their own tour guide for their local area (as in 'More Learning Ideas' below).

### MORE LEARNING IDEAS

Get your students to create a guidebook for their local area, taking inspiration from Source 4. They should give a description of the area and focus on the key places they'd encourage someone to visit; and/or they might like to do a profile of their friends as 'important individuals' in the locality!



# TOURING TWICKENHAM

## TEACHERS' NOTES

### SOURCE WORK

Start by using Sources 2 and 3 from the Sources section (pages 64–69) to give students a visual sense of Twickenham in the 18th century. This could be done as a whole-class, small-group or individual activity. Additional images of the area can be found on the English Heritage website, by searching 'View from Richmond Hill'.

You could discuss:

- Building design – The idea of escape and retreat became physically embodied in the 'Arcadian' landscapes created and designed to be viewed from the river. Marble Hill, for example, was inspired by the villas and landscapes of ancient Rome and Greece and the rural bliss they represented.
- The role of the river – The river allowed for the movement of people. Boats ferried people to and from London or the residences of their acquaintances and friends. The river was a more comfortable way to travel at the time and avoided the discomfort, dirt and danger of the bumpy roads frequented by highwaymen. It also allowed the movement of goods. For example, food grown on the estate at Marble Hill could have been sent to Henrietta's town house on Savile Row.
- Commerce and industry – Palladian villas sit alongside commercial properties such as tanneries, artisanal cottages and malt houses. Fishermen can be seen.
- People and animals – People's clothing can give an indication as to their social status or wealth. Animals such as horses and sheep may be noted.

### USING MAPS

Find a Map of Twickenham – Ordnance Survey and Historic England have searchable maps online, or Google Maps can also work well.

Start by getting students to make observations about the area, its topography and features, encouraging the use of geographical terms.

Next, task students with locating particular features or places such as the river Thames, royal palaces like Hampton Court, areas of green space like Richmond Park, as well as different areas of London. Ask them to find Twickenham and to locate Marble Hill.

Make sure students are familiar with Marble Hill's owner, Henrietta Howard – this can be gained from the Historical Information (pages 6–13).

### NOTABLE NEIGHBOURS

Students should read through the 'Notable Neighbours' information (page 23) which details five people who lived in the area alongside Henrietta Howard.

They should then work out which house belonged to each individual using the poems on page 24. The correct answer can be written in to complete the 'Lived at...' section of the sheet.

At this point students may want to return to the maps and see if they can locate these places. Not all will be possible; Pope's Villa, for example no longer stands (only the grotto remains) and the octagonal tower is the main surviving part of Secretary Johnston's house, now Orleans House.

This change in the landscape is significant and reflects the importance of Marble Hill as one of the only remaining examples of these Thames-side villas between Hampton Court and Kew, with its situation by the river largely unchanged and as it would have been when Henrietta lived there.

### GOING FURTHER

This could be a point at which to discuss the Act of Parliament in 1902 which saved Marble Hill from development so as to protect the view from Richmond Hill (of which Marble Hill is central). Richmond Hill has been an inspiration for many artists and could serve as an interesting art study. Search 'View from Richmond Hill' on the English Heritage website for more information.

If you or your students are interested to find out more, there are other 'notable' people and residences including Lord Ilay (Whitton Place), the Earls of Dysart or Lady Grace Carteret (Ham House) and Mary Wortley Montagu who spent her summers at Savile House. She was the first person to bring the smallpox inoculation to England having seen the process in action in Turkey.

### LOCAL GUIDEBOOK

To extend your students' learning, look together at Source 4, a guidebook to Twickenham, published in 1775 by Henrietta Pye. This was slightly after Henrietta Howard had lived at Marble Hill (she died in 1767) but it reflects the time, with Twickenham being considered quite a 'destination' to visit and offers insight into its cultural appeal.

Pye's guide states that 'The Genius of the inhabitants inclines not towards Commerce, Architecture seems their chief Delight; in which if anyone doubts their exceling, let him sail up the River and view their lovely Villas beautifying its banks.' Encourage students to take inspiration from this guide and create their own for their local area. They should give a description of the area and focus on the key places they'd encourage someone to visit; and/or they might like to do a profile of their friends as 'important individuals' in the locality!



Henrietta Howard entertaining guests at Marble Hill.  
Illustration by Jill Calder.





ENGLISH HERITAGE  
EDUCATION

KS2

KS3

## NOTABLE NEIGHBOURS

READ ABOUT FIVE PEOPLE  
WHO WERE NEIGHBOURS OF  
HENRIETTA HOWARD.

When you've got to know  
Henrietta's neighbours, identify  
which house was theirs using the  
poems on the next page.

### 1 QUEEN CAROLINE

Lived at: .....



Queen Caroline and her  
husband, King George II,  
had a number of homes.

Between 1727 and 1730  
they built a hunting lodge in  
Richmond Park – an escape  
from the smells, hustle and  
bustle of London.

#### LINK TO HENRIETTA:

Before moving to Marble  
Hill, Henrietta Howard  
served in Queen Caroline's  
household.

### 2 ALEXANDER POPE

Lived at: .....

Pope built his villa on the Thames in 1720. He made his  
money by translating Homer's 'The Iliad' from Ancient Greek  
to English.

He was a celebrated poet and an important person in the  
literary circles of his time. He loved dogs and called each  
one he got the same name  
– Bounce!



#### LINK TO HENRIETTA:

Pope and Henrietta were  
friends and visited each other  
often. They exchanged letters  
and poems. He had a lot  
of influence in the design of  
Henrietta's garden.

### 3 JAMES JOHNSTON

Lived at: .....

Johnston was a politician,  
government official and keen  
gardener. King George II and  
Queen Caroline are known to  
have visited his home.

#### LINK TO HENRIETTA:

Johnston was Henrietta's  
immediate neighbour while  
Marble Hill was being built.

Soon after Henrietta came to  
live at Marble Hill, Johnston  
died. The house was bought  
by George Morton Pitt, a politician.



### 4 DUCHESS OF QUEENSBERRY

Lived at: .....

Catherine, Duchess of Queensberry, was known for her  
support of writers, being beautiful and hosting excellent  
parties. She was thought to be a bit eccentric and liked to  
wear an apron.



In 1764 she was given an  
enslaved boy she called Julius  
Soubise. Catherine freed him  
and treated him as her own  
son.

#### LINK TO HENRIETTA:

Catherine and Henrietta  
were friends and wrote to  
each other often. One of  
their mutual friends, the poet  
John Gay, regularly stayed  
with Catherine.

### 5 HORACE WALPOLE

Lived at: .....

Walpole was the youngest  
son of Britain's first prime  
minister. His 'little Gothic  
castle' was built in 1749  
and filled with his curious  
collections.

He printed his own book *The  
Castle of Otranto* inspired by  
a nightmare he'd had!

#### LINK TO HENRIETTA:

Walpole and Henrietta were  
good friends. He last visited  
her at Marble Hill the day  
before she died.



## A SECRETARY JOHNSTON'S HOUSE (NOW ORLEANS HOUSE)

"I'm a politician and ended my career,  
In this wonderful mansion along the Thames here.  
I have a room with eight sides, and a very  
fine garden;  
A big, long project; yes it was a tough one.  
I'm lucky to have many friends in high places  
And entertain often for their favour and graces."

## B STRAWBERRY HILL HOUSE

"The British Prime Minister was my dad  
And about political circles I myself would gad.  
My house design is in the gothic style  
And a fruit helps name this glorious pile.  
I really love to write and share,  
So I brought a printing press to my lair."

## C POPE'S VILLA

"I'm a key player in the Twickenham crowd,  
I've built a fine villa of which I am proud,  
Complete with a grotto, where I can write  
After successfully translating the Iliad's plight.  
I live with my mum, old nurse and dog Bounce  
(of them I've had many, I've nearly lost count!)"

## D WHITE LODGE

"This place, one of many (we're Royal you see),  
Was built for the hunt but fills me with glee,  
So I stay here quite often, glad to be out of the city,  
The smells, noise and bustle; it is such a pity.  
Here it is tranquil, calm and serene,  
Although out in the park people still wait till  
I'm seen."

## E DOUGLAS HOUSE

"I'm a society girl, a Duchess no less,  
I throw a good party and like to impress.  
Some say I'm eccentric, I do like an apron!  
To writers I'm certainly a supportive patron.  
I was given an enslaved boy and then made him free,  
Considered him another son of my husband  
and me."

## NEXT STEPS

When you've worked out which house belongs to which person, complete the 'Lived at...' line at the top of the 'Notable Neighbours' sheet.

## CHALLENGE TIME!



Ask your teacher for Source 4.  
Be inspired and create your own  
guidebook for your local area.  
Describe the place, detail where  
people should visit and possibly  
even some of the people too!

# SELF-LED ACTIVITY

## DEFYING DISABILITY



KS2

KS3

### Recommended for

KS2–3 (History, PSHE, English)

### Learning objectives

- Explore hearing loss in the 18th century with a focus on Henrietta Howard and some of her friends.
- Consider some of the ways people dealt with hearing loss and the impact it had on their lives.
- Understand ways for communicating with someone with hearing loss.

### Time to complete

Approx. 60 minutes



A stockbroker feigning deafness to avoid paying the man who claims to have restored his hearing. Coloured etching, 1786. Reference 10958i, Wellcome Collection © Public domain

### SUMMARY

Henrietta Howard was nicknamed 'the Swiss', reflecting her ability to maintain a neutral position between the conflicting interests of those around her at court. She was also known for her discretion, ability to keep a secret and as a prolific letter writer.

Throughout her life Henrietta frequently experienced debilitating headaches and in her late twenties or early thirties began to lose her hearing. One historian has noted, 'To be hard of hearing in a world that fed on gossip, intrigue and scandal was clearly a great disadvantage.' Therefore, Henrietta's ability to navigate the world of the spoken word is testament to her talents.

This activity can be used to encourage your students to explore hearing loss in the 18th century, the impact this had on people's lives, the 'aids' Henrietta used to support her hearing, and drastic measures she took in an attempt to cure her disability.

### SUGGESTED APPROACH

1. Use the Teachers' Notes on pages 26–28 and Sources 5–8 in the Sources section (pages 64–69) to guide your students in discussion.
2. Reflect on hearing loss today and the impact of science and technology on this disability.
3. Consider ways for communicating with someone with hearing loss and explore British Sign Language (BSL) using the fingerspelling alphabet and wordsearch.

### MORE LEARNING IDEAS

Search for 'Living with Disability' on the English Heritage website. You'll find a page dedicated to stories of people with both visible and hidden impairments, who have been the recipients of a Blue Plaque. Students could choose one of these people and produce a presentation about them or they could use these individuals as inspiration for further research into other historical figures with a disability.



# DEFYING DISABILITY

## TEACHERS' NOTES

### HEARING LOSS IN THE 18TH CENTURY

#### SOURCE WORK

Henrietta Howard's health was poor throughout her life. She wrote about having attacks of rheumatism and gout and suffered from frequent and debilitating headaches. She started to lose her hearing in her late twenties or early thirties.

A number of contemporaries commented on Henrietta's poor hearing. For example, in a short and complimentary poem about Henrietta's positive attributes, the poet Alexander Pope (1688–1744) concludes with a sharp jest about Henrietta's deafness:

'Has she no faults then (Envy says), Sir?'

Yes, she has one, I must aver:

When all the world conspires to praise her,

The woman's deaf, and does not hear.

She wasn't the only one within her social circle to have experienced hearing loss, however, and it was often a source of conversation within their letters.

Jonathan Swift (1667–1745), a writer and cleric, also had issues with his hearing. He was introduced to Henrietta by Pope, who told him:

'I can also help you to a Lady who is as deaf, tho' not so old as your self...You'll be pleas'd with one another, I'll engage, tho' you don't hear one another: you'll converse like spirits by intuition.'

Historians have suggested that Swift had the symptoms of Meniere's disease (sometimes referred to as labyrinthine vertigo). This is an inner ear disorder characterised by headaches, dizziness, nausea and deafness.

#### Source 5

Ask students to read Jonathan Swift's words to Henrietta in 1727 and pose the following questions to promote discussion:

- What are his symptoms?
- How long has he been experiencing problems for?
- What action is he taking to try to get rid of his 'bad head and deaf ears'?
- How would you describe his feelings towards his hearing loss?

## Source 6

Jonathan Swift even wrote a poem, 'On His Own Deafness', in 1734 about his hearing loss. Ask students:

- What more could you say about how his hearing loss is impacting on his life or making him feel?

## Source 7

Another contemporary of Henrietta, Lord Chesterfield (1694–1773), was also hard of hearing or possibly deaf. He seems to have become increasingly secluded as a result of his deafness from 1752 (when he would have been in his late fifties). Ask students to read Source 7, posing the following questions for discussion:

- What might the frequent references to hearing loss suggest? (It occupies much thought.)
- How does he say his hearing loss is affecting him?

## TRYING SURGERY

Henrietta tried to improve her hearing through aids and is said to have used a tortoise-shell ear trumpet. Desperation to recover greater hearing drove her to extreme measures. In about 1728 she sent for Mr William Cheselden (1688–1752), who was surgeon to Queen Caroline and considered one of the best in his profession. He appears to have drilled into her jaw.

The pain from this was, Henrietta said, 'almost insupportable and the Consequence was many weeks of misery [sic]'. Another surgeon even suggested that she should have her ear removed, which Henrietta declined.

In her later years Henrietta was interviewed by Horace Walpole (1717–97), the politician, author and patron of the arts who lived at Strawberry Hill, who was eager to hear about her life at court. In a subsequent publication of some of these stories Walpole wrote of Henrietta, 'She was extremely deaf, and consequently had more satisfaction in narrating than in listening.'

## Source 8

- What can we learn from Henrietta's account about the surgery?
- What does this suggest about options for treatment for those with hearing loss in the 18th century? Do you think they are likely to have been successful?
- How did Henrietta's hearing loss impact on her interactions? (Note how aids, such as hearing trumpets, were very large and cumbersome.)

## HEARING LOSS TODAY

At this point you may like to reflect on hearing loss today in comparison and how advancements in science and technology can now better help people experiencing this. Discuss challenges, such as hearing loss often being a largely 'invisible' disability. Think about ways for communicating with people with hearing loss. These could include:

- Looking at the person you're speaking to
- Making sure you're away from any background noise
- Not covering your mouth, to support lip reading
- Speaking clearly at a reasonable pace (slow or exaggerated movements of the mouth can make things harder to understand)
- Using whole sentences not abbreviations, and show/speak responses, don't just 'mmhmm'.



## GOING FURTHER

Another thing students could do is learn British Sign Language. On page 29 you'll find a copy of the British Sign Language (BSL) fingerspelling alphabet. Give students some time to look at this and learn/practise some of the signs.

When they're ready for a challenge, they can do the Marble Hill BSL fingerspelling wordsearch on page 30. They can create their own at [www.signlanguageforum.com](http://www.signlanguageforum.com). See also 'More Learning Ideas' on page 25 or they might like to design their own ear-trumpet, inspired by 18th-century examples.



Henrietta Howard was a prolific letter writer and communicated often with her friends. Illustration by Jill Calder.



# DEFYING DISABILITY

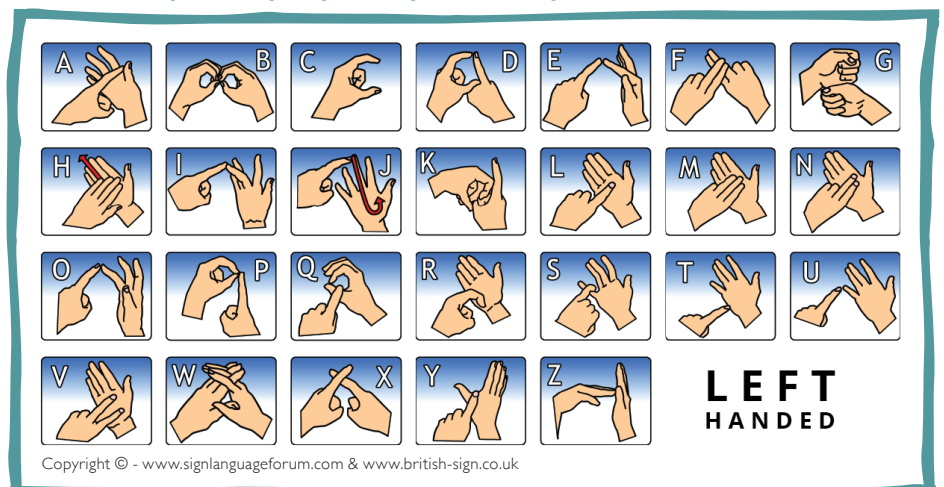


Look at and **practise** the British Sign Language (BSL) fingerspelling alphabet, then complete the Marble Hill wordsearch on the next page.

## British Sign Language Fingerspelling Alphabet – Right Handed



## British Sign Language Fingerspelling Alphabet – Left Handed



### DID YOU KNOW?



Fingerspelling is a way of spelling words using hand movements. It can be used to spell out names of people and places for which there is not a sign or words that a signer/reader is unsure of.

### FIND OUT MORE



To create your own own wordsearch or find out more, search 'BSL Fingerspelling Word Search Puzzle Maker'.



# MARBLE HILL FINGERSPELLING WORDSEARCH

Find these Marble Hill-related words.

(Note: this wordsearch uses the right-handed signs.)



- Henrietta
- Ear
- Trumpet
- Deaf
- Cheselden
- Writing





# AT THE HOUSE AND GARDEN

Activities for students to do at Marble Hill to help them get the most out of their learning.

# SELF-LED ACTIVITY

## GARDENS TRAIL



**KS2**

**KS3**

### Recommended for

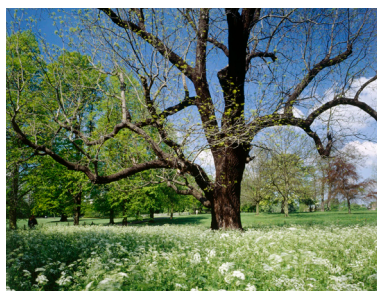
KS2–3 (Science, Geography, History, Art)

### Learning objectives

- Compare what it was like to visit Henrietta's garden and park in the 18th century with visiting in the 21st century.
- Identify how Marble Hill provides habitats for a variety of animals and plants and contributes towards biodiversity.
- Explore the physical characteristics of the landscape and compare how its use has changed over time.
- Connect with nature and outdoor space to improve wellbeing.

### Time to complete

45–60 minutes



The ancient black walnut tree at Marble Hill.

### SUMMARY

Choose the trail which is appropriate for the season that you are visiting Marble Hill. Print the trail as an A4 double-sided resource. Photocopy enough trails for your class.

### ACTIVITY

The trail takes in seven areas of the grounds at Marble Hill. These are:

1. HENRIETTA'S PLEASURE GARDEN

2. TREE GROVE AVENUES

3. BLACK WALNUT TREE

4. RIVERSIDE VILLA

5. THE THAMES

6. WOODLAND

7. SEEDS, LEAVES AND BARK (autumn to spring trail)/  
MEADOW (summer trail)

### MORE LEARNING IDEAS

Encourage students to come up with ideas for ways in which they could help improve biodiversity. These could include creating an area for wildflowers at home or at school, constructing a habitat for wildlife such as a small pond or insect hotel or planting fruit trees. Making a calendar to record when fruits are produced will enable them to keep track of seasonal produce.

## SELF-LED ACTIVITY

# GARDENS TRAIL TEACHERS' NOTES

### ANSWERS

(THE QUESTIONS ARE ON THE SEASONAL TRAIL SHEETS ON PAGES 35–46.)

1. The site and trail maps show these things clearly.



2. There are three types of tree planted in avenues down towards the river:

- Black poplar
- White poplar
- Indian horse chestnut.

Poplar trees were very popular in the 18th century. They are one of the many different species of tree that Henrietta may have had in her garden. Poplar trees adapted over time to survive flooding, so are well suited to Marble Hill's riverside location. They are also an excellent habitat for moths.

3. Other edible nuts produced by trees in the UK:

- Sweet chestnuts
- Hazelnuts.

Other food produced by trees:

- UK: fruit – apples, pears and cherries
- Tropical trees: coconuts, Brazil nuts, maple syrup.

A family of Little Owls lives in the tree. They can sometimes be seen sitting in a row along the branches.

Continued...



## SELF-LED ACTIVITY

# GARDENS TRAIL TEACHERS' NOTES

### ANSWERS

- 
4. Modern roads are tarmacked and much better maintained than in the 18th century, making them easier to travel by. Cars are much faster than 18th-century coaches, drawn by horses. Today, travelling by car is faster and cheaper than travelling by boat, so most people visit Marble Hill via roads rather than the river.

In Henrietta's day, guests were invited into her house and grounds. Today, Marble Hill is a public space and people can walk or cycle to visit the house and grounds.

- 
5. The ferry across the Thames is protected by a royal charter. It was the main method of crossing the river before Richmond Bridge was built in 1777.

- 
6. Send us a list of what you found to [bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk)

- 
7. Other seeds, leaves and bark that may be found in this area, depending on the time of year:



1. Conkers  
(horse chestnut seeds)



2. Horse chestnut bark



3. Alder bark



4. Conifer (pine) bark

- 
7. (continued). Wildflowers that may be found in the meadow, depending on the time of year:

poppies

grasses

cornflowers

meadowsweet

cow parsley

ox-eye daisy

cowslip

# GARDENS SUMMER TRAIL MAP



## KEY

- |                                      |                     |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>1</b> HENRIETTA'S PLEASURE GARDEN | <b>5</b> THE THAMES |
| <b>2</b> TREE GROVE AVENUES          | <b>6</b> WOODLAND   |
| <b>3</b> BLACK WALNUT TREE           | <b>7</b> MEADOW     |
| <b>4</b> RIVERSIDE VILLA             |                     |





ENGLISH HERITAGE  
EDUCATION

# GARDENS TRAIL

(SUMMER)

MARBLE HILL

KSI-2

KS3

Explore Henrietta Howard's 18th-century garden and discover why it is still so special today.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

## 1. HENRIETTA'S PLEASURE GARDEN



A plan of the pleasure ground drawn in about 1749. Norfolk Record Office, MC184/10/1 (rights reserved)

At the back of the house (facing the river), stand on the lawn and look around. **Take a deep breath** and slowly breathe out. How does it feel to be outside in an open space? **Tell** a person near you how you feel.

The garden at Marble Hill was designed for Henrietta Howard in the 18th century by gardener Charles Bridgeman and the poet Alexander Pope.

This part of the garden was called a **pleasure ground**. When it was warm, Henrietta hosted dinners on the lawn.

**Draw** an arrow to:

1. the oval-shaped lawn ☐    2. the house ☐    3. avenues of trees ☐



## 2. TREE GROVE AVENUES

The garden was designed using ideas from the gardens of ancient Rome, a 'Garden of the Ancients', with stepped **terraces**, **grottoes** and **groves** of trees in avenues. Henrietta used her garden for exercise, taking walks with her many friends and family.



Indian horse chestnut.



Black poplar leaf.

**Walk** down the avenues and count the types of trees.

**Listen** – can you hear any animals or birds?

**Ask** someone near you what they can hear or see.



White poplar leaf.

Spend 5 minutes **recording** any animals or birds you see. **Help us** keep track of nature at Marble Hill by sending us your observations:

.....

.....

.....

## 3. BLACK WALNUT TREE

This tree is the only survivor of the shrubbery created in the late 18th century. It gets its name from its dark bark. It still produces fruits!

Ask someone nearby: have you ever eaten a walnut?  
What does it taste like?

**Think** – what other edible nuts come from trees?

What other foods come from trees?



The black walnut tree (*Juglans nigra*) is recorded as being one of the largest of its type in the country.

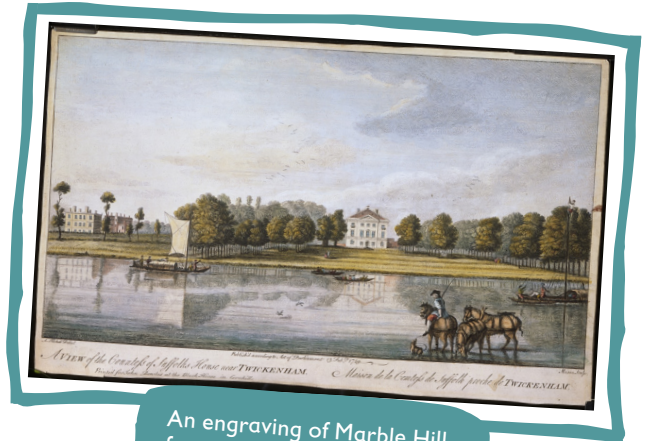
## 4. RIVERSIDE VILLA

Marble Hill is one of several large houses on the Thames. Being close to the river was important for transporting food and supplies. In the 18th century, roads were dangerous, uneven tracks with the threat of highwaymen robbing passing coaches.

Henrietta lived much of her life with the royal court in the palaces of London. Once she moved to Marble Hill, her friends travelled up the river by boat to visit her.

**Imagine** how you'd feel stepping off a boat and arriving at Marble Hill for the first time. **Tell** someone near you your first impressions of the house and grounds.

**Discuss:** how do most visitors arrive at Marble Hill today? Has this changed since Henrietta's day? Why?



An engraving of Marble Hill from 1749 showing the river.

## 5. THE THAMES

The Thames is home to many species of wildlife. Stand quietly and watch the river. Can you spot two different types of waterbird?

**Hérons** live in large colonies in the trees high above the river. They stand very still waiting for fish or frogs to swim near, then spear them with their sharp beaks.

**Cormorants** can dive underwater very quickly to catch fish, their main food. They can often be seen 'dancing' – really, they are holding their wings out to dry.

**Role-play:**

1. Stand perfectly still as a heron waiting to spot a fish. Who can stay still the longest?
2. Wave your arms like a cormorant's wings, but try to keep the rest of your body still!



Cormorant.



Grey Heron.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The ferry has taken passengers across the river to Ham House for over 500 years.

## 6. WOODLAND

Henrietta used the woodland and flower garden for peaceful walks or chatting with her friends. How does walking in the woodland make you feel?



Woodlands are an important habitat for biodiversity (lots of different types of plants and animals). Biodiversity is important because nature is made up of ecosystems (different communities of living things and their environments) which all depend on each other.

**Look carefully** at all the species you can see in the woodland. Make a list of what you see and create a woodland food chain or web back in the classroom.

1. Trees

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

**Discuss:** Broadleaved woodlands often contain deciduous trees. These are trees which lose their leaves in autumn and winter. How do you think this could help woodland biodiversity?

## 7. MEADOW

Wildflower meadows are an important habitat for **pollinators** such as bees and butterflies. They provide homes and food for insects, birds and small mammals.

**Count** how many different types of wildflower you can find in the meadow.

**Draw** a wildflower that you see in the meadow:

- label parts of a flower, e.g. stem, petal, leaf.



### Butterfly count

**Stand** still for 5 minutes and count how many butterflies you can see within that time.

.....

Did you know there is a Big Butterfly Count in Britain every year? Search 'Big Butterfly Count' to find out more.



# GARDENS AUTUMN- SPRING TRAIL MAP



## KEY

**1**

HENRIETTA'S PLEASURE GARDEN

**2**

TREE GROVE AVENUES

**3**

BLACK WALNUT TREE

**4**

RIVERSIDE VILLA

**5**

THE THAMES

**6**

WOODLAND

**7**

SEEDS, LEAVES AND BARK



ENGLISH HERITAGE  
EDUCATION

# GARDENS TRAIL

(AUTUMN-SPRING)

MARBLE HILL

KSI-2

KS3

Explore Henrietta Howard's 18th-century garden and discover why it is still so special today.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

## 1. HENRIETTA'S PLEASURE GARDEN



A plan of the pleasure ground drawn in about 1749. Norfolk Record Office, MC184/10/1 (rights reserved)

At the back of the house (facing the river), stand on the lawn and look around. **Take a deep breath** and slowly breathe out. How does it feel to be outside in an open space? **Tell** a person near you how you feel.

Marble Hill Park was designed for Henrietta Howard in the 18th century by gardener Charles Bridgeman and the poet Alexander Pope.

This part of the garden was called a **pleasure ground**. When it was warm, Henrietta hosted dinners on the lawn.

**Draw** an arrow to:

1. the oval-shaped lawn ☐    2. the house ☐    3. avenues of trees ☐



## 2. TREE GROVE AVENUES

The garden was designed using ideas from the gardens of ancient Rome, a 'Garden of the Ancients', with stepped **terraces**, **grottoes** and **groves** of trees in avenues. Henrietta used her garden for exercise, taking walks with her many friends and family.



Indian horse chestnut.



Black poplar leaf.

**Walk** down the avenues and count the types of trees.

**Listen** – can you hear any animals or birds?

**Ask** someone near you what they can hear or see.



White poplar leaf.

Spend 5 minutes **recording** any animals or birds you see. **Help us** keep track of nature at Marble Hill by sending us your observations:

.....

.....

.....

## 3. BLACK WALNUT TREE

This tree is the only survivor of the shrubbery created in the late 18th century. It gets its name from its dark bark. It still produces fruits and these can often be seen on the lower branches especially in the autumn.

Ask someone nearby: have you ever eaten a walnut? What does it taste like?

**Think** – what other edible nuts come from trees?

What other foods come from trees?



The black walnut tree (*Juglans nigra*) is recorded as being one of the largest of its type in the country.

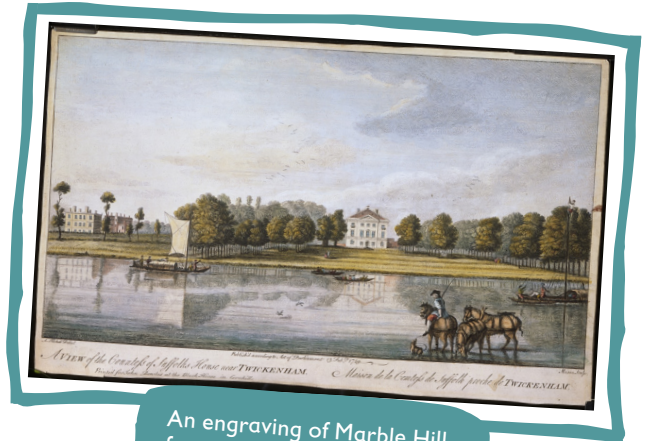
## 4. RIVERSIDE VILLA

Marble Hill is one of several large houses on the Thames. Being close to the river was important for transporting food and supplies. In the 18th century, roads were dangerous, uneven tracks with the threat of highwaymen robbing passing coaches.

Henrietta lived much of her life with the royal court in the palaces of London. Once she moved to Marble Hill, her friends travelled up the river by boat to visit her.

**Imagine** how you'd feel stepping off a boat and arriving at Marble Hill for the first time. **Tell** someone near you your first impressions of the house and grounds.

**Discuss:** how do most visitors arrive at Marble Hill today? Has this changed since Henrietta's day? Why?



An engraving of Marble Hill from 1749 showing the river.

## 5. THE THAMES

The Thames is home to many species of wildlife. Stand quietly and watch the river. Can you spot two different types of waterbird?

**Hérons** live in large colonies in the trees high above the river. They stand very still waiting for fish or frogs to swim near, then spear them with their sharp beaks.

**Cormorants** can dive underwater very quickly to catch fish, their main food. They can often be seen 'dancing' – really, they are holding their wings out to dry.

**Role-play:**

1. Stand perfectly still as a heron waiting to spot a fish. Who can stay still the longest?
2. Wave your arms like a cormorant's wings, but try to keep the rest of your body still!



Cormorant.



Grey Heron.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The ferry has taken passengers across the river to Ham House for over 500 years.



## 6. WOODLAND

Henrietta used the woodland and flower garden for peaceful walks or chatting with her friends. How does walking in the woodland make you feel?



Woodlands are an important habitat for biodiversity (lots of different types of plants and animals). Biodiversity is important because nature is made up of ecosystems (different communities of living things and their environments) which all depend on each other.

**Look carefully** at all the species you can see in the woodland. Make a list of what you see and create a woodland food chain or web back in the classroom.

1. Trees

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

**Discuss:** Broadleaved woodlands often contain deciduous trees. These are trees which lose their leaves in autumn and winter. How do you think this could help woodland biodiversity?

## 7. SEEDS, LEAVES AND BARK

How many different types of seed or leaves can you find on the ground?



Pine cone.



Alder catkins.



Alder leaf.



Horse chestnut leaf.

**Draw** a seed or leaf. You could also do a bark rubbing:



When trees die, they are still a great habitat for insects and fungi. Can you **find** the large fallen tree? **Look closely** to see if you can see what lives here – **be careful** not to disturb these creatures in their home.



# POST-VISIT

Information and activities to help you extend your students' learning back in the classroom.

# SELF-LED ACTIVITY

## CHINESE INSPIRATION



**KS2**

**KS3**

### Recommended for

KS2–3 (Art and Design, History)

### Learning objectives

- Understand the origins and appeal of chinoiserie.
- Identify objects within the collection at Marble Hill that reflect Henrietta Howard's taste for chinoiserie.
- Create own pieces inspired by China.

### Time to complete

Approx. 60 minutes



A photograph showing a section of the wallpaper in the dining room at Marble Hill.

### The following are popular design choices in chinoiserie:

- Birds (often in pairs to show 'harmony')
- Trees
- Flowers
- Ponds and streams
- Butterflies
- Insects.

### SUMMARY

Henrietta Howard, Countess of Suffolk (1689–1767), was an early collector of chinoiserie, which featured throughout her house at Marble Hill.

This activity provides students with the opportunity to understand more about this design style, appreciate why it was so popular in the 18th century, and explore it through some of the objects in the collection at Marble Hill. Once inspired, students can then work on their own chinoiserie-style designs.

### SUGGESTED APPROACH

1. Read the information on chinoiserie on pages 49-52. You could do this as a whole class or break the sections down for different groups to become 'experts' in before feeding back.
2. Study the details of the design using Sources 9 and 11 and research other examples of chinoiserie. Notice the 'stylised' ('ideal') designs and limited, natural colour palettes.
3. Students to create their own chinoiserie-inspired design, showing and being able to talk about design elements they've learnt about. These could be for wallpaper, a piece of porcelain, a painted mirror or piece of furniture.

### MORE LEARNING IDEAS

When students have completed their own chinoiserie-style designs they could put these into production, e.g. a teapot design could be properly worked up in clay, fired and painted. Students could create their own exhibition of these pieces and write object labels for each other's work, or even an exhibition leaflet for any visitors you may invite.



# CHINOISERIE

EXPLORE THIS STYLE  
OF ART

Below is a brief introduction to chinoiserie. Use this to help you understand the popularity of this style of art in the 18th century and examples of it at Marble Hill.

## WHAT IS CHINOISERIE?

Chinoiserie is a term given to objects made in China for the European market, and also goods made in Europe with an oriental character or style.

China was held in high esteem by 18th-century Britons, who admired the country's traditional virtues and the fact that it combined them with modern business and trade. Western buyers liked the beautiful designs and fine techniques, but trade with China was difficult and took a long time. Although European trading stations or 'factories' had been set up, the Chinese emperor limited Western access in China to Canton (now Guangzhou). During the early 18th century, inventive European artists and artisans began to produce their own copies of Chinese goods to meet demand for Eastern imports, particularly for the luxuries of porcelain and lacquer. It was this hybrid style that became known as chinoiserie.

Chinoiserie came to Britain via the ships of the East India Company through the port of London, where these ships unloaded their cargoes. The imported goods were then bought at auctions held by the company at its headquarters in East India House in Leadenhall Street. Items were sold to other traders and also to individual buyers.

The East India Company was founded in 1600 and traded with countries in the Indian Ocean region, around India, South-East Asia and later China. During the mid 1700s and early 1800s the company accounted for half of the world's trade.



A painting showing the portrait of an East India Company official, by Dip Chand, c.1760–64.  
© Victoria and Albert Museum, London

## CHINOISERIE AT MARBLE HILL

Henrietta Howard, Countess of Suffolk (1689–1767), was an early collector of chinoiserie. It provided a unique beauty to the house in contrast to the classical architecture of the villa. Chinoiserie was often considered to be of ‘female taste’ and was



Henrietta kept her porcelain in a specially built ‘China room’ to display it (this has since been demolished).

mostly seen in the private, female spaces within the home. The fact that Henrietta has pieces of chinoiserie throughout her home (including the dining room, which in the 18th century was considered to be a masculine space) shows how every room of her house was very much hers and decorated as she pleased. An inventory, taken in 1767, four days after her death, listed at least 12 pieces of ‘Japan’ and ‘India’ furniture, cabinets and chests. However, Henrietta’s greatest collection of oriental objects was of porcelain.

## PORCELAIN

The Chinese had exported porcelain to South-East Asia, India and the Middle East since at least the 9th century. When the Portuguese arrived in 1514, they also began to export large quantities to Europe. In the 18th century, porcelain became a key import for the East India Company.

True Chinese porcelain contains two essential ingredients – kaolin (china clay) and petuntse (china stone), both of which are types of decomposed granite. It also requires a kiln capable of firing at extremely high temperatures. Europeans didn’t make true porcelain until 1715, at Meissen in Germany.

An English product inspired by the Chinese was English Delftware. It’s actually tin-glazed pottery and is much softer and creamier in colour than true porcelain.



A porcelain tea set on display at Marble Hill.

## WALLPAPER

It's thought that the Chinese tradition of painting panelled screens, scrolls and decorative window papers provided the inspiration for early Chinese-style wallpaper in Europe. An itemised bill is the first surviving evidence we have that Henrietta Howard had 'India Paper' installed in her new dining room in 1751. The paper's journey began in Canton, where it was decorated by unknown Chinese artists. It would then have travelled on one of the heavily armed ships of the East India Company. Ships' captains and senior officers often brought back papers to sell privately. As an unofficial part of the cargo – usually tea, porcelain and lacquer – early wallpapers were rarely recorded in a ship's documents.

Hand-painted Chinese papers could take 12 to 18 months to arrive in England and were usually supplied in sets, each different in design. Being hand painted, these paper-hangings were very expensive. Henrietta Howard paid £42 2s for the original Marble Hill wallpaper, at a time when her cook probably earned around £8 a year, and the annual rental for a house on London Bridge was £12.

There's no evidence of the original Chinese wallpaper at Marble Hill. The replica hanging today is based on several originals dating to the 1750s that survive elsewhere. It was produced in China by a specialist wallpaper company. The artists spent over a thousand hours on the project. The materials used are the same as in the 18th century. The fine, painted paper is composed of white mulberry paper mounted on superfine silk, backed with another layer of mulberry paper. The designs were painted with watercolour, gouache and tempera, applied thinly in order to prevent cracking when rolled up for shipping.

When being fitted, expensive wallpaper would be protected from damp by being stretched on wooden battens slightly away from a wall. This also meant the paper could be taken down intact. First the walls were lined with wooden battens of Idigbo timber. Native to West Africa, Idigbo is a tropical hardwood chosen because it is low in resin, tight-grained, and therefore less likely to warp or twist. Linen was stretched and tacked onto the battens, followed by lining paper, which was glued to the fabric. After five days' drying, the Chinese paper could be applied with traditional starch-based paste. The bamboo border, supplied separately, was hand cut by the paper-hanger and pasted around the doors, dado and cornice edges.



The Chinese wallpaper in the dining room at Marble Hill.



Eight-leaf lacquer screen, made in China, c.1735. The screen was evidently made to order as it includes Henrietta's family crest applied in the original lacquer.

## JAPANNING

One of Henrietta's personal possessions that can still be seen in the Great Room at Marble Hill is a magnificent Chinese lacquer screen that was made to order in China. The crest in the top right corner displays the arms of the earls of Suffolk on the left, and the Hobart family on the right (Hobart was Henrietta's maiden name).

To make true lacquer, the key ingredient is sap of the Chinese lacquer tree (*Rhus verniciflux*), which is native to China and the Indian subcontinent. The sap could not

be imported in its raw state, as it would dry out on the journey. Therefore Europeans tried to copy the lacquer finish using local equivalents, but they could not match the hard glossy quality of the original, and instead created a process called Japanning.

The English japanner used a diluted animal-based glue and whitening mixture which was applied in successive layers to the wood, then blackened or coloured, varnished and polished. Japanned furniture became very popular and items were usually identified as 'Japan' whether they were actually japanned or lacquered.

European artisans continually looked for ways of imitating Chinese originals using new techniques. As early as 1660, Thomas Allgood of Pontypool discovered a way of japanning on metal – which became known as Pontypool Japan.

## SILK

Silk was probably the first exotic Far Eastern material to arrive in Europe. Great quantities of Chinese silk passed along the caravan trails of Central Asia from the days of the Roman Empire. Silk was unique to China and remained so until the eggs of the mulberry silk moth were smuggled into Rome in the 6th century. Chinese silk cloth was used for luxurious dresses and waistcoats, and to decorate rooms. Raw silk was woven into wall-hangings, such as those in Henrietta Howard's bedchamber.

Marble Hill is also home to the Rosemary and Monty Lazenby Bequest of 'chinoiserie' paintings and furniture. This collection includes unusual Chinese mirror paintings done in enamel on partly silvered glass. The glass was made in London and then sent to workshops in China for decoration.



Henrietta Howard's bedchamber.



# SELF-LED ACTIVITY

## A WINDOW TO THE WORLD



KS2

KS3

KS4

### Recommended for

KS2–4 (Geography, History, Citizenship, Science, Art and Design)

### Learning objectives

- Understand the connections that can be made between Marble Hill and the wider world.
- Identify places that Marble Hill has a connection with.
- Pursue a topic for an individual enquiry project.

### Time to complete

Approx. 60 minutes plus individual project time



One of the shells found during excavations of the grotto at Marble Hill.

### SUMMARY

Marble Hill has a number of connections with the wider world, through its landscape, building, furniture and the investments and activities of its owner, Henrietta Howard.

This activity provides an opportunity to use Marble Hill and some of its collection as a window to the 18th-century world and to explore some of these connections in more depth. Then, with support, students can choose an area to look into further as the basis of an individual, paired or small-group project. Equally, a topic could be chosen for whole-class exploration, linking to an existing area of focus within your scheme of learning.

### NOTE ON PROJECTS

On pages 54 and 55 are some Teachers' Notes with ideas for possible enquiry topics. You know your classes and students best, so please approach this with the benefit of your professional judgement regarding the suitability of topics in terms of age and ability.

The possible sources of information are meant to be a starting point but are by no means comprehensive and they aren't all written for a schools audience, therefore appropriate support and guidance will need to be given.

Similarly, some of the topics, such as the Transatlantic Slave Trade, are broad and could lead to several further lines of enquiry. These topics need to be broached with sensitivity and students should not be left to tackle this subject matter without teacher oversight and supervision.

### MORE LEARNING IDEAS

Agree 'success criteria' for projects to be assessed against and to support constructive feedback. This could include points such as information selection, presentation or articulation.

# A WINDOW TO THE WORLD

## TEACHERS' NOTES

The table below offers some suggested starting points for information relevant to the listed topics. These are mainly online sources but students should also be encouraged to use others such as books, journals, magazine articles or newspapers for more comprehensive research resources.

Ideas for Enquiry Topics	Possible Sources of Information
Henrietta Howard/Marble Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English Heritage, 'Marble Hill'</li> <li>English Heritage podcast, episode 52</li> <li>English Heritage, 'The Slavery Connections of Marble Hill House'</li> </ul>
The South Sea Company	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English Heritage podcast, episode 71, 'When the bubble burst: the South Sea Company stock market crash'</li> <li>The National Archives, 'The South Sea Bubble of 1720'</li> <li>Harvard Library, 'The South Sea Bubble, 1720'</li> </ul>
Palladian architecture and design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>V&amp;A, 'Palladianism – An Introduction'</li> <li>Kenwood House Teachers' Kit, 'Design Your Own Robert Adam Interior'</li> </ul>
The Grand Tour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Trust, 'What was the Grand Tour?'</li> </ul>
Giovanni Paolo Panini	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Gallery</li> <li>The Met Museum</li> <li>National Gallery of Art</li> </ul>
Logging and deforestation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Geographic, 'Deforestation Explained'</li> </ul>
Mahogany/Mahogany furniture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English Heritage, Untold Stories, Digital Poetry Anthology, 'Songs of Mahogany' by Malika Booker</li> <li>National Trust for Scotland, 'Facing our Past, the Difficult History of Mahogany'</li> </ul>
African languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Britannica Kids, 'African Languages'</li> </ul>
The Transatlantic Slave Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English Heritage podcast, episode 81, 'Voices of England: How slavery shaped the nation'</li> <li>Liverpool Museums, Transatlantic Slave Trade</li> <li>Understanding Slavery Initiative</li> </ul>

Acts of resistance and rebellion by enslaved Africans in the Caribbean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liverpool Museums, Transatlantic Slave Trade</li> <li>• Understanding Slavery Initiative, Resistance and Rebellion</li> </ul>
Tea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Royal Horticultural Society</li> <li>• Kew Gardens</li> <li>• Royal Museums Greenwich, 'Chinese Tea Ceremonies'</li> </ul>
The East India Company	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BBC History Extra, 'The East India Company'</li> </ul>
Porcelain/ceramics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• V&amp;A</li> <li>• British Museum</li> <li>• National Trust</li> <li>• The Royal Collection Trust</li> </ul>
Grottoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Twickenham Museum, 'Pope's Grotto'</li> </ul>
Cabinets of Curiosities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Google Arts and Culture, 'The Cabinet of Curiosities'</li> </ul>
Hans Sloane and the Origins of the British Museum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The British Museum, 'Sir Hans Sloane'</li> <li>• The Natural History Museum, 'Slavery and the Natural World'</li> </ul>
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woodland Trust</li> <li>• Natural History Museum, 'What is Biodiversity?'</li> </ul>
Fabrics and carpets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Georgian Group advice leaflets, 'Curtains and blinds' and 'Floors'</li> </ul>
Georgians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English Heritage 'An Introduction to Georgian England (1714–1837)'</li> <li>• English Heritage Kids</li> <li>• English Heritage YouTube, 'Georgian Make-Up Tutorial'</li> <li>• Historic England, 'Meet the Georgians'</li> <li>• The National Archives, 'Georgian Britain'</li> </ul>

# WINDOW TO THE WORLD

EXPLORE MARBLE HILL'S  
CONNECTIONS

KS2

KS3

KS4

Use an atlas to locate each of these places that Marble Hill is connected to. You may like to cut and stick these connections around the world map on the next page, then draw a line to the relevant place.



## HENRIETTA HOWARD



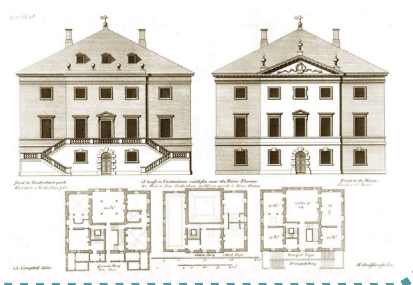
ENGLAND



## ARCHITECTURE AND ART



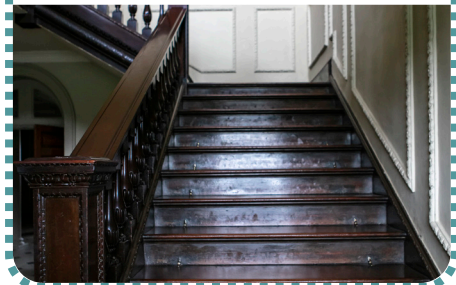
ROME



## MAHOGANY



HONDURAS



## TEA SET



CHINA



## WALLPAPER



CHINA | WEST AFRICA



## SHELLS AND CORAL



THE CARIBBEAN



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## FABRICS AND CARPETS



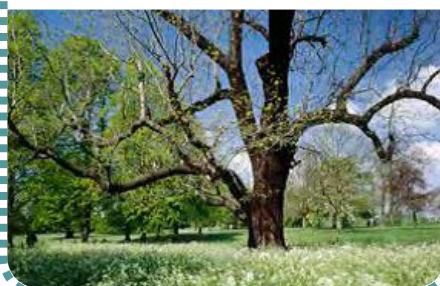
CHINA | TURKEY



## BLACK WALNUT



NORTH AMERICA



Find out more by reading the extra information on each of these connections.

You may like to do your own research project on one of the related topics.



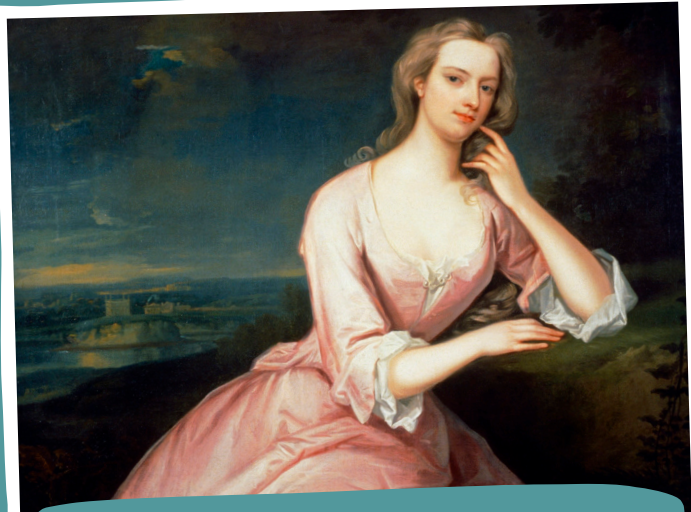
# WORLD MAP



Wikimedia Commons / CC BY-SA 3.0.

## HENRIETTA HOWARD'S SETTLEMENT AND INVESTMENTS

In March 1723, Henrietta Howard was gifted a large settlement from the Prince of Wales (later King George II), which included £11,500 of stock along with some plates, jewellery, furniture and furnishings. Seventy per cent of the stock (£8,000) was in the South Sea Company, which had been formed in 1711 to supply people for use as forced labour on the Spanish plantations in Central and Southern America. It's not clear when Henrietta sold her stocks and how much she profited from them, but the settlement certainly seems to have given her the financial security to buy the land and begin building Marble Hill.



A painting of Henrietta Howard by Charles Jervas c.1724.

Henrietta had investments in the South Sea Company before Prince George's gift and in September 1719 she had also invested 5,000 livres (an old French currency unit) in the Compagnie des Indes (otherwise known as the Mississippi Company). The Compagnie des Indes transported thousands of enslaved Africans to America, specifically the Mississippi, and had control over the slave trade to the Caribbean and Louisiana from 1720. This investment was done on Henrietta's behalf by the Duke of Argyll, who later became a trustee of the king's settlement.



A painting, 'The South Sea Bubble, a Scene in 'Change Alley in 1720' by Edward Matthew Ward, 1847, on display at Tate. CC-BY-NC-ND 3.0 (Unported)

Many British aristocrats and leading politicians also invested in stocks and shares. This encouraged other people to do the same. Investing became very popular, which in turn increased their value. However, there were significant crashes too, such as the stock market collapse of 1720 when a large number of people were financially ruined.

## ARCHITECTURE AND ART

Henrietta Howard had a passion for architecture. She was heavily involved in the designs for her house. The proportions reflect her love of the Palladian style, something that was only just becoming fashionable in England. This style, named after the 16th-century Italian architect Andrea Palladio, saw designs based on the buildings of ancient Greece and Rome.

People were beginning to know more about these classical styles due to the 'Grand Tour' which was becoming popular in the late 17th and 18th

centuries. The tour followed a well-known route of important classical sites such as Rome and Pompeii. It was a way for wealthy young men to experience the architecture, language and literature of Greek and Roman history. It was thought to be a key part of their education. Over time, the tour was taken by more people, including artists, collectors and women.

Appreciation of the classical style wasn't limited to the exteriors of Marble Hill. In the Great Room there is a set of five imaginary views of Rome by the artist Giovanni Paolo Panini, an architect and painter who worked in the Italian city. Positioned above the doors and mantelpiece, they are thought to have been either purchased or commissioned by Henrietta Howard for the room.



A painting 'Roman landscape with the arch of Constantine', 1738, by the artist Giovanni Paolo Panini.

Colen Campbell's illustrations of Marble Hill, entitled 'A house in Twickenham', published in *Vitruvius Britannicus* in 1725. Campbell does not claim the design of the house as his own, and his exact role, if any, in its creation is unclear.



## MAHOGANY

Part of Prince George's gift to Henrietta Howard in 1723 included a shipload of mahogany that had just arrived in London. Tradition has it that this mahogany was used in the building of Marble Hill. It is said to have been chopped down by the Royal Navy in Honduras, in Central America. Mahogany can also be seen in the staircase, floorboards and furniture at Marble Hill.

Mahogany is a hard, resistant and close-grained wood. It was a high-quality and popular material for 18th-century artisans. However, this came at a devastating cost for the enslaved African people who were forced to cut down and process most of the mahogany and faced unbearable daily toil. The word 'mahogany' is thought to come from the West African Yoruba word 'oganwo'.

The trade in mahogany began in the mid 17th century after England captured Jamaica from Spain in 1655. A lot of 'New World' farmed products were imported and planted in the UK, but mahogany was only sourced from Caribbean islands.



The mahogany staircase at Marble Hill.



A mahogany settee with cover embroidered by Anne Northey c.1745–60 on display at Marble Hill.

The mahogany trade resulted in deforestation on a large scale. Chopping down mahogany trees suited plantation owners and enslavers as the sales gave them extra profits, it made more space for the plantations and removed a place of natural shelter for enslaved people looking to escape.

Two of the most significant slave revolts in the Caribbean were seen at this time – the First Maroon War of 1728 and Tacky's Revolt in 1760.



## TEA TABLE

In the breakfast parlour at Marble Hill there is a tea table, showing the popularity of this drink in the 18th century. Most of the tea in Britain at this time came from China and was transported by the East India Company. Tea was heavily taxed and so was mostly drunk by the wealthy who could afford it.

The table itself was made in England around 1750 from mahogany. It was designed for the purpose of displaying the owner's highly fashionable Chinese porcelain. Shown at Marble Hill are porcelain tea bowls with matching saucers, a sugar bowl, slop bowl, milk jug, teapot and tea canister. These were made in China and date from the Kangxi period (1662–1722). Also shown are sugar nips and three spoons.

The delicate tea bowls only held a small amount of tea. Any that went cold, and the tea leaves, was thrown away into the larger slop bowl. A silver kettle, for boiling water, and a lockable chest, to store tea leaves (as these were so expensive), were kept on a side table. Henrietta had coffee-drinking equipment and a chocolate pan for hot chocolate too.



The tea table in the breakfast parlour at Marble Hill.

## WALLPAPER

Henrietta Howard had Chinese wallpaper installed in her new dining room in 1751. It was decorated by Chinese artists in Canton before being brought to England on ships of the East India Company. The wallpaper was hand painted and therefore very expensive – Henrietta paid £42 2s for it.

To install the wallpaper, the walls were lined with wooden battens of Idigbo timber, which came from West Africa. Then, linen was stretched and tacked onto the battens, followed by lining paper, which was glued to the fabric. After five days' drying, the Chinese paper could be applied with a starch-based paste. To finish, a bamboo border was hand cut and pasted around the doors, dado and cornice edges.

There's no evidence of the original wallpaper at Marble Hill so what's hanging in the dining room today is a replica based on similar paper from the 1750s. It was produced in China by a specialist wallpaper company using the same materials as in the 18th century. The designs are painted with watercolour, gouache and tempera, applied thinly in order to prevent cracking when rolled up for shipping. The artists spent over a thousand hours on the project. For more information on the wallpaper, see page 51.

## SHELLS AND CORAL

Grottoes had been popular in ancient Rome and they were increasingly seen in British gardens in the 18th century, inspired by those who had been on the Grand Tour. Decorating grottoes was seen as a fashionable thing for women to do in the 18th century and often took place over a long period of time. Decorations were based on the individual taste of their owner and the materials available. On a garden tour, they were an opportunity to show off the owner's fashionable taste.

The grotto at Marble Hill was probably built in the 1730s and was still being added to in the 1760s. There seem to have been networks of women who were sharing their knowledge on shell work and creating grottoes, and these were not always 'elite' women either. Henrietta Howard got advice on the creation of her grotto from a friend, Mary Lisle, which included recipes for cement and artificial coral. In a letter from 1739, Henrietta describes how she was 'at this time head and ears in shells'. Excavations in the 1980s and 2021 have shown some of the materials that decorated the grotto. These include shells, flint, coral and glass, as well as containers used in industrial processes such as glass working, brick making, iron and copper smelting.

Some of the shells and coral used in the grotto at Marble Hill originated in the Caribbean. This reflects the increasing presence of Europeans in the Americas, as well as Africa and South and South-East Asia. Many people wanted shells because they were seen as objects of beauty or unique 'curiosities'. Rare shells were deliberately imported and traded, sometimes at great expense. Shells were also valued by those interested in natural history as a way to classify, categorise and understand the natural world. As they became more fashionable they also held a monetary value. They, along with other products of forced labour like coffee and sugar, were part of the transatlantic economy, which had a terrible impact on African people who were enslaved and traded as part of it.

It's not clear how Henrietta Howard got the shells she used to decorate the grotto at Marble Hill. She may have got them directly through contacts linked to her investments or via specialist shell dealers and agents. She may have been gifted them by friends or bought them at auction. Newspaper adverts from the time promote auctions of shells in shops as well as pubs and coffee houses. These were places for people to see shells alongside other 'curiosities', even if they couldn't afford to buy them. See Source 12.



## FABRICS AND CARPETS

From her days at court, Henrietta was known for having an excellent sense of style. She put this to good use when she was made Mistress of the Robes in 1731 and had responsibility for dressing the queen. Her letters show her going to great lengths to buy luxury fabrics for the queen's clothes and she was known to ask friends abroad to help her in getting hold of certain items.

Henrietta took a similar approach with Marble Hill. Lord Chesterfield, who was working in The Hague, wrote to say he had seen 'an extream fine Chinese bed, window Curtains, Chairs and c.' for sale at a very good price and that if she wanted it for Marble Hill and could get it there, he would be happy to arrange things for her.

There were certainly luxury fabrics at Marble Hill, including damask and silk from China. The carpets currently on display are replicas but when Henrietta lived there they are likely to have been from Turkey. Henrietta's friend Jonathan Swift even sent plaid cloth from Ireland for her to use for bed hangings and curtains. See also Source 13.

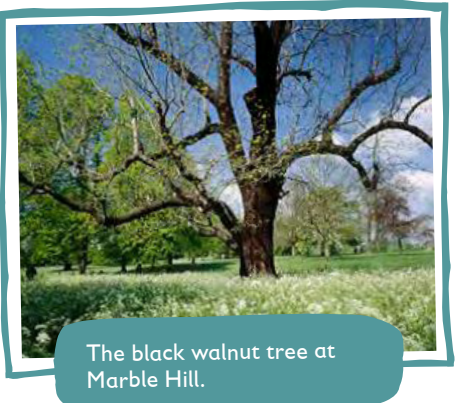
## BLACK WALNUT

The black walnut tree at Marble Hill is the only survivor of the shrubbery created in the late 18th century. It's a non-native species that originates from eastern North America. Black walnuts were first introduced to Europe in 1629.

The scientific name for the black walnut is *Juglans nigra*. It's a large, broad-leaf tree that gets its name from its dark bark, which is covered in ridges. It flowers between late May and early June, and in autumn it produces a fruit, similar in size to a plum but brown/green in colour. The fruit is a nut in a shell. The shell can be very hard so animals, like squirrels, will eat the nuts when the shell is still green and the nut is easier to get at.

Black walnuts have clever properties, like producing a chemical in their roots that stops other trees and plants from growing nearby, as well as having many medical uses. Their timber is strong and hard-wearing and dye from the seeds can be used for crafts.

Today, a key priority for the garden team at Marble Hill is encouraging biodiversity: making sure that the natural environment supports a wide variety of life, which is important for the resilience of the planet. This has included planting over three hundred new trees, establishing wildflower meadows, areas of woodland and hedgerows. The variety of flowers, plants, trees and habitats is what brings the richness of different insects, birds and mammals, giving them places to move around safely and thrive.



ENGLISH HERITAGE  
EDUCATION

## SOURCES

PEER INTO THE PAST

KS2

KS3

KS4+

A historical source is something that tells us about life in the past, such as a document, a picture or an object. It may be a primary source, from the time, or a secondary source, created later. Our experts have chosen these sources to help you learn about Marble Hill's history.

## SOURCE 1

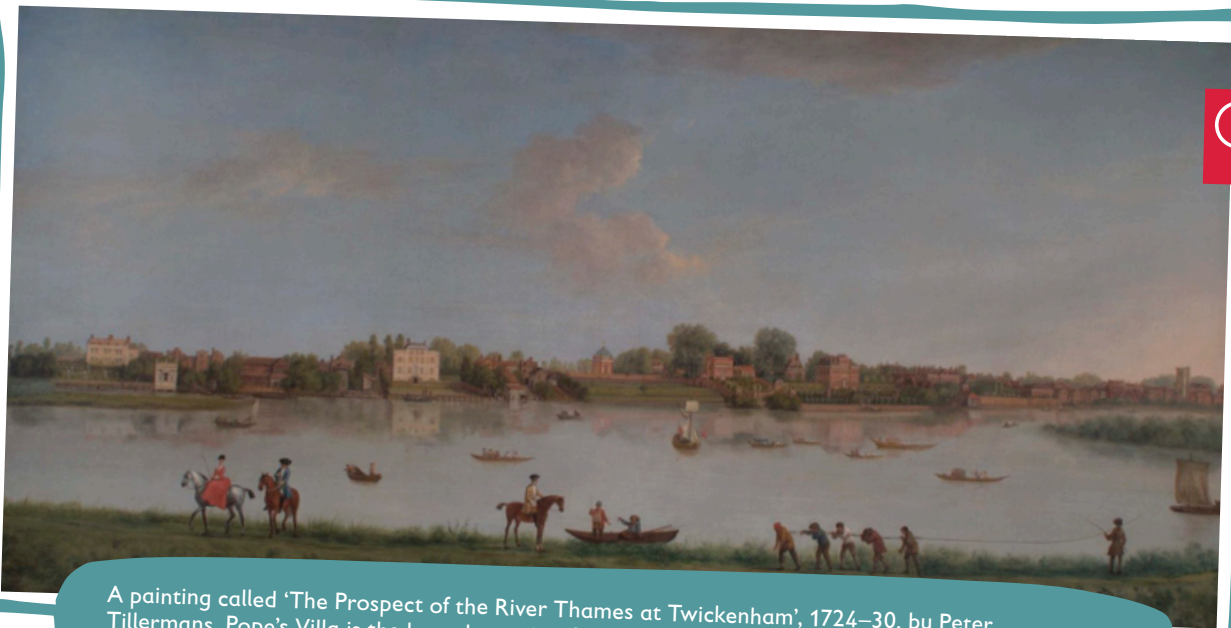
[Henrietta] 'I beg you will never mention the Plan which you found in my Room. There's a necessity, yet, to keep that whole affair secret, tho (I think I may tell you) it's almost entirely finish'd to my satisfaction.'



[John] 'When I hear you succeed in your wishes, I succeed in mine, so I will not say a word more of the house.'

Letters between Henrietta Howard and her friend John Gay.

## SOURCE 2



A painting called 'The Prospect of the River Thames at Twickenham', 1724-30, by Peter Tillermans. Pope's Villa is the large house just left of centre. © By kind permission of the Richmond Borough Art Collection, Orleans House Gallery



## SOURCE 3



'The Thames near Marble Hill' by Richard Wilson, c.1762. Marble Hill can be seen through the trees on the right.

## SOURCE 4

### PEEP INTO THE Principal Seats and Gardens IN AND ABOUT TWICKENHAM (The Residence of the MUSES)

WITH A  
Suitable COMPANION for those who wish  
to visit WINDSOR or HAMPTON-COURT.

To which is added,  
A History of a little KINGDOM on the Banks  
of the THAMES, and its present SOVEREIGN,  
his Laws, Government, &c.

BY A LADY OF DISTINCTION,  
In the Republic of LETTERS.

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Printed for J. Bew, No. 28, in Pater-noster Row ;  
J. ALMON, Piccadilly ; and G. WOODFALL,  
Charing Cross.

MDCC LXXV.  
[Price 1s. 6d.]

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beyond, the River with *Richmond* on the opposite Side.

The Genius of the inhabitants inclines not towards Commerce, Architecture seems their chief Delight; in which if any one doubts their excelling, let him sail up the River and view their lovely Villas beautifying its Banks; Lovers of true Society, they despise Ceremony, & no Place can boast more Examples of domestic Happiness. Their Partiality for their Country rises to Enthusiasm; and what is more remarkable, there is scarce any Instance of a Stranger's residing

[ 53 ]

siding for a few Days among them, without being inspir'd by the same rapturous Affection, for this Earthly *Elefium*. Their Laws and Customs are dictated by Reason, and regulated by social Love. Happy! thrice happy they, to whom it is permitted to spend their Lives in such a Country, such Society, and under such a Government; possess of

— An \* elegant Sufficiency; Content, Retirement, rural Quiet, Friendship, Books, progressive Virtue, and approving HEAVN.

\* Vide Thompson's Seasons, Spring.  
F I N I S.

Pages from a guidebook to Twickenham by Henrietta Pye, published in 1775.



## SOURCE 5

[I have] 'This evil disorder of deafness attended with a continual giddyness.'

'...I got my Giddyness...at Richmond and when you were four years and a quarter old... about twenty miles further in Surry... There I got my deafness and these two friends have visited me, one or other every year since, and being old acquaintances have now thought fit to come together.'

'I am so desperate that I resolve to get rid of them [bad head and deaf ears] as soon as possible and accordingly am putting my self into the apothecarys books and swallowing the poisons he sends me by the Doctors orders.'

Extracts from letters written by Jonathan Swift to Henrietta Howard in 1727.



## SOURCE 6

Jonathan Swift, On His Own Deafness

DOCTOR. Deaf, giddy, helpless, left alone.

ANSWER. Except the first, the fault's your own.

DOCTOR. To all my friends a burden grown.

ANSWER. Because to few you will be shewn. Give them good wine, and meat to stuff,  
You may have company enough.

DOCTOR. No more I hear my church's bell, Than if it rang out for my knell.

ANSWER. Then write and read, 'twill do as well.

On His Own Deafness, a poem by Jonathan Swift, 1734.



## SOURCE 7

30 June 1752 'I am here in my hermitage, very deaf, and consequently alone; but I am less dejected than most people in my situation would be.'

16 Feb 1753 'I grow deafer, and consequently more isole for society every day.'

10 July 1753 'My deafness is extremely increased, and daily increasing, and cuts me wholly off from the society of others, and my other complaints deny me society of myself.'

Lord Chesterfield, a friend of Henrietta Howard's, writing about his hearing loss.





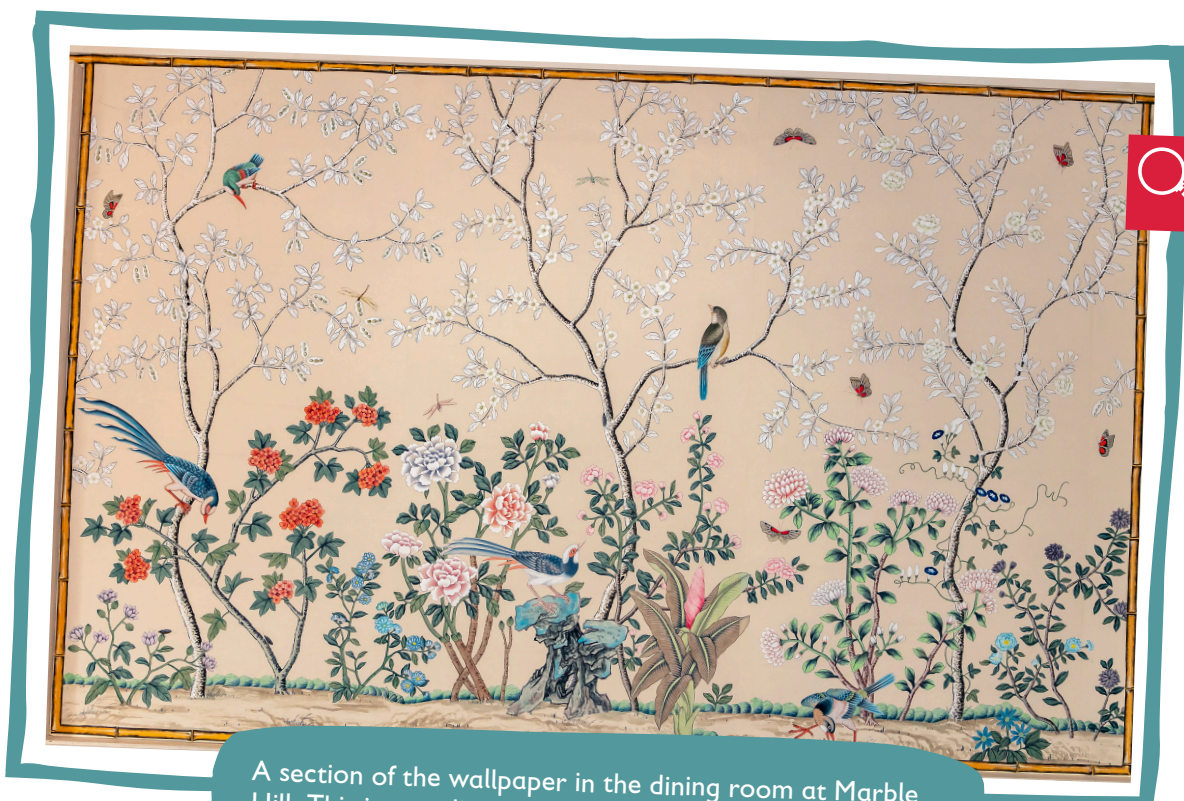
## SOURCE 8

‘I sent for Mr Cheselden, who, give him his due, worked very hard, but found so much resistance, that I was justified to inquire no further then into my jaw; besides, finding nothing there, we were afraid to proceed.’

“”

An extract from a letter written by Henrietta Howard describing the surgery she had in 1728 in an effort to recover some of her hearing. Henrietta described the pain from this surgery as ‘almost insupportable and the Consequence was many weeks of misery [sic]’. Another surgeon even suggested that she should have her ear removed, which Henrietta declined. Her friend Horace Walpole later wrote, ‘She was extremely deaf, and consequently had more satisfaction in narrating than in listening.’

## SOURCE 9



A section of the wallpaper in the dining room at Marble Hill. This is a replica based on examples from the 1750s.

## SOURCE 10

‘40 yds. of Linnon at 9d.1/2’, ‘17 Quires of Paper, Paste and Tack’, ‘62 Sheets of India Paper’, ‘135 Yards of Border’, and ‘47 days time in Hanging the Room’.

“”

Invoice from Thomas Bromwich (d.1787) who supplied the original Chinese paper for the dining room at Marble Hill and organised its installation (a method English Heritage followed for the new paper in 2006). Bromwich traded from his workshop ‘at the Golden Lyon on Ludgate Hill’.



## SOURCE 11



An enamel on glass painting from China dated c.1760.

## SOURCE 12

‘To be dispos’d of, By GEORGE DEANE, at the Star, over-against a Gold-smith’s, in the pav’d Passage leading to Well-Close-Square, A Parcel of curious shells large and small, fit for Collections, Grottos, or Flowers; a Parcel of fine white Coral, and green Shells for Fan-Painters, and lately brought from the East and West Indies; several fine japann’d India Cabinets and Trunks; a fine beautiful Bird, call’d a Loury, of many fine and various Colours, such as was never brought to England from the East Indies; a fine Animal, call’d a Mocaco from Madagascar, is to be admir’d for its Beauty, and very tame; a fine green Parrot that talks exceeding well; also some old China; and other Curiosities.’

Advertisements and Notices, *Daily Advertiser*, 30 March 1744.





## SOURCE 13

‘I still think if you cou’d get the damask very cheap it wou’d be better to buy it at the auction because there are a thousand accidents that happen at sea one very seldome fails wch is of having it mildew’d my Lady Suffolk has a whole set of hangings so spoilt at Marble Hill & the sea water is very apt to do so now in this you will run no hazard for to be sure I woul’d hae it very well lookt over before I brought it...’

A letter from Anna Chamber to her husband, written in c.1741, held at the British Library.



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