Pre- and Post-Visit Activities

Introduction to Geoffrey Chaucer & The Canterbury Tales
#lovechaucer

Please also see separate ‘KS3 Accompanying Notes’ for extra information on these slides.
Contents

Pre-visit lessons:
1- Pilgrimage in 14th Century England
2- Geoffrey Chaucer
3- The language and settings
4- The Characters

Activities for the visit:
-Use KS3 Activities Pack-

Post-visit lessons:
-Debate on favourite tale
-Debate on favourite character
-Debate on a modern pilgrimage
-Split into teams to produce brief tale
-Reading of students’ tales
Pilgrimage in 14th Century England

- The Crown and the Church were all powerful
- Potential argument between Crown and Church?
- A career in the church was the aspiration of many
- Pilgrimage to atone for misdeeds, cure illness and improve social standing
Geoffrey Chaucer

- Social position
- Education
- Career and family
- Wrote as a hobby
- Why did he write in ‘English’?
Whilom, as olde stories tellen us,
Ther was a duc that highte Theseus;
Of Atthenes he was lord and governour,
And in his tyme swich a conquerour,
That gretter was ther noon under the sonne.
Ful many a riche contree hadde he wonne,
What with his wysdom and his chivalrie;
He conquered at the regne of Femenye.

Stories of old have told us,
That there was once a Duke called Theseus;
Ruler of Athens, Lord and Governor,
And in his time such a conqueror,
There was none greater under the sun
And many a rich country he had won
What with his wisdom and his troops of horse
He conquered all Amazons by force.
That whilom was ycleped Scithia,
And weddede the queene Ypolita,
And broghte hir hoom with hym in his contree,
With muchel glorie and greet solemnpytee,
And eek hir yonge suster Emelye.
And thus with victorie and with melodye
Lete I this noble duk to Atthenes ryde,
The Characters

Harry Bailey
The Knight
The Miller
The Wife of Bath
The Nun’s Priest
The Pardoner
During Your Visit...

Whilst you are at The Canterbury Tales, keep your wits about you and listen hard for information to help you with the following:

• complete the quiz and time-line
• finish the word-search challenge
• carry out the mapping activity
• answer the follow up questions
Post-visit consolidation lesson

1- Group discussion on favourite tale/character
2- Feedback to class
3- Group discussion on impact of settings/language
4- Feedback to class
5- Group discussion about what a modern pilgrimage could be
6- What would be the same and what would be different from Chaucer’s pilgrimage?
Story-Telling Activity

1- Split into groups

2- Recap Chaucer’s background, settings, language and characterisation

3- In your group write a short tale, with a clear middle, beginning and end.

4- Think about:
   – Whether you are going to change the prose, setting or plot
   – If you want to involve poetry
5- Write your tale and allocate parts
6- Read aloud/perform
7- Give each other feedback (1 what went well and 1 could be improved)
8- Vote for best tale
9- Please feel free to film/take images and post to our Facebook page or tweet #lovechaucer.

–For additional suggestions, refer to the separate 'KS3 Accompanying Notes'