

Lutley

Primary School

Learning, Caring, Aiming High - Together

Year 3

Local study

Leasowes Park

Builds on Knowledge and Skills

In Year 1, you learned about the changes at Lutley Primary School. You found out that it started off as a middle school then it changed to a primary school. It used to have two classes per year and now it is a three-form entry primary school. You looked at the changes in uniform and how the building has changed over the last 50 years.

In Year 2, you visited 260 Hagley Road and found out about the history of this house. It used to be a nail maker's cottage and you learned about nail making in the Black Country during the Industrial Revolution.

Suggested family experience

- Walk round Halesowen Town Centre.
- You can see Ivy House, which is a Georgian House currently available to rent. Recently, a skip company used the building as offices.
- Visit St. Johns church and graveyard. See if you can find William Shenstone's grave stone.
- You can walk past the Wetherspoons pub which is called The Shenstone after William Shenstone.
- There are office blocks named after William Shenstone.

National Curriculum

KS2 - A local history study.

A study of an aspect of history or a site dating from a period beyond 1066 that is significant in the locality.

Local:

William Shenstone the poet was born in Halesowen in 1714, and was buried in Halesowen churchyard in 1763.

National:

In 1714 (the year Shenstone was born) the Georgian era began spanning the years from 1714 to 1837, covering the reigns of George I, II, III and IV, as well as that of William IV. It was an era of great social, political and cultural changes. It includes the start of the Industrial Revolution, the emergence of Romanticism in art and literature, and the expansion and dominance of the British Empire through exploration and war.

International

The Georgian architectural style, characterised by its elegance, symmetry, and classical influences, has been applied to many civic and residential buildings around the world. Originating in the 18th century, Georgian interior styles and architecture quickly gained popularity and influenced construction far beyond the UK.

Vocabulary you will use:

Word	Definition
Poet	A person who writes poems.
Grade I listed site	A site is listed when it is of special architectural or historic interest considered to be of national importance.
Heritage	A place of significance to people on account of its historical value.
significant	Great or important. Worthy of attention.
Landscape.	All the visible features of an area of land.

Who is William Shenstone?

William Shenstone (18 November 1714 – 11 February 1763) was an English poet and one of the earliest practitioners of landscape gardening through the development of his estate, *The Leasowes*. He inherited the Leasowes estate, and retired there in 1745 to undertake what proved the chief work of his life, the beautifying of his property. He embarked on elaborate schemes of landscape gardening which gave *The Leasowes* a wide celebrity appeal. *The Leasowes* became a popular destination for all classes of society and was visited by William Pitt, Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson.

William Shenstone with Leasowes Park in the background

Poetry

In his poetry, Shenstone celebrated rustic virtue and simplicity, foreshadowing the sentiments of the early Romantics. His best-known poem, *The School-Mistress* (1742), commemorates his first teacher at the village school—Sarah Lloyd.



Quick Summary



The Leasowes is a 57-hectare estate in Halesowen, historically in the county of Shropshire, later Worcestershire, England, comprising house and gardens. The poet William Shenstone designed this naturalistic landscape which is now Grade I listed on English Heritage's Register of Parks and Gardens.

Main Events

1743 Shenstone starts to design his wild garden.

1763 His wild garden is completed.

1776 Shenstone's original house demolished and replacement built

1776 Walled garden built.



Questions we'll ask you throughout the unit to check your knowledge and understanding.

Why is Leasowes Park significant in Halesowen?

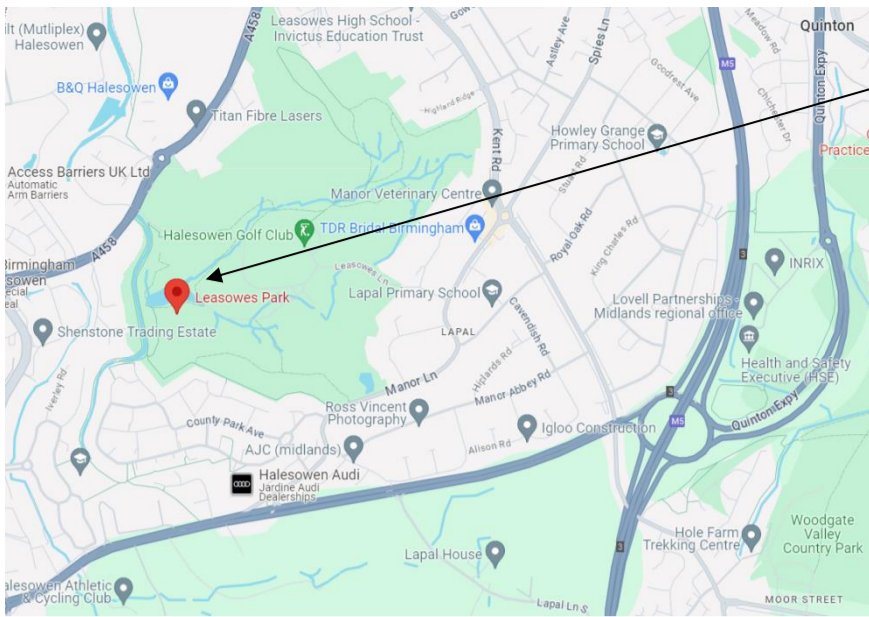
What is William Shenstone famous for?

Why is Leasowes Park Grade I listed?

Map work



Use different coloured crayons and create a key of roads, water, significant buildings.



Start with a modern map of The Leasowes then work back in time.

Location: 3 Leasowes Lane, Mucklow Hill, Halesowen B62 8DH.

District: Dudley



Start with a recent aerial photograph and work back in time. Label key features.

Visit Leasowes Park



Designed by the poet William Shenstone between 1743 and 1763, the site is one of the most important and influential landscapes of the 18th Century and is considered to be one of the first natural landscape gardens in England.

Today, the Leasowes is of major historic significance, ranking in importance with such landscapes as Blenheim and Stowe. It is the diverse landscape of wooded valleys, open grasslands, lakes and streams created by Shenstone that makes the site so important for wildlife. The site has been managed with nature in mind since the mid 18th Century and as such provides a wealth of different habitats for birds, mammals, invertebrates and locally uncommon plant species.

Thanks to its "nationally important assemblage of grassland fungi and species-rich neutral grasslands," The Leasowes has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and is also a site within the Black Country UNESCO Global Geopark GEOSITE: 26



Two of many waterfalls in the park



Visit The 'Walled Garden'



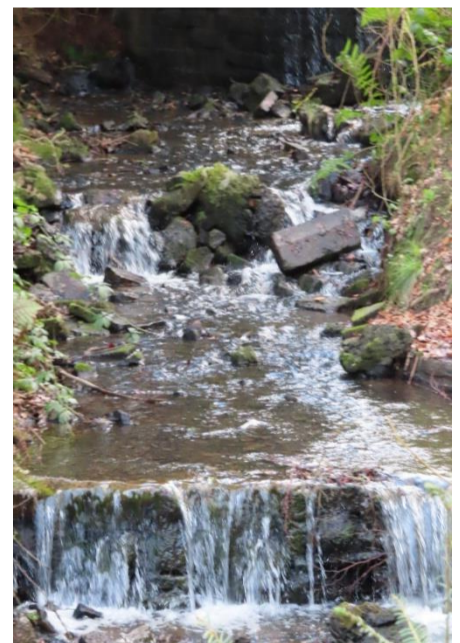
Located only 200 metres from the Golf Club House is a Walled Garden. Built around the same time as the house (1776), Leasowes Walled Garden is a haven in Halesowen, providing a refuge for the community and the wildlife it attracts, through the continued work of Halesowen Abbey Trust who manage the site with nature in mind.



The Walled Garden

One of the main features of The Leasowes is the 'Circuit,' a circular walk that guides visitors through the landscape, presenting features and views to their best effect. The circuit was documented by Robert Dodsley, published in 1765. *A Description of THE LEASOWES, The Seat of the late William Shenstone Esq.* This path leads around the garden allowing every aspect of the design to be fully experienced and appreciated. Walkers are led past seats and urns carefully positioned to enhance a scene, or to allow the opportunity to rest and admire the carefully created views. Many of the features bare poems placed by Shenstone to evoke a sense of mood; some of the seats and urns are also dedicated to Shenstone's close friends. Water was of great importance in the design of The Leasowes and whilst walking around the garden the visitors are constantly aware of both the sound and sight of water as it flows through the valleys and rushes over cascades to plunge down into pools.

Circuit Walk



Circuit Walk

Shenstone's grave



A grave is a primary source of evidence about a person and the past. What can we learn about William Shenstone from his grave?

Considering... How big Shenstone's house was, how big his garden was, royalty and famous people from all over the world visited his garden.... Is this how you imagined his grave to be?



Heritage walk



Society



Technology



Engineering



Ivy House in Halesowen



George Inn, Corner of High Street and Stourbridge Road

Challenge

How many buildings or roads in Halesowen can you find with the name 'Shenstone'?

Georgian architecture

How many Georgian buildings are there in Halesowen?

What are the key features of a Georgian building?

How can you tell the difference between a Georgian building and a modern building built in a Georgian style?

Here's a quick guide on how to spot a Georgian house:

3/4 storeys in height — both Georgian townhouses and Georgian country houses were set over at least 3 storeys.

Sash windows — tall windows were generally found on the first and second floors with smaller sash windows on the remaining floors.

Symmetrical exterior — exteriors of Georgian architecture were kept simple with symmetrical features.

Stucco-fronted — throughout the early Georgian period, the ground floor was rendered with the rest of the exterior exposed. However, in the late Georgian period, houses would be rendered from top to bottom.

White or cream renders — the renders of all Georgian-style homes were either white, off-white, or cream. This also drew upon the classic Roman architecture style that the Georgians drew much of their inspiration.