

A journey to Ascot activity

Main focus of activity:

- To be able to draw conclusions from a given image
- Use a visual stimulus to inspire descriptive writing

Links to curriculum:

Art and design key stage 2

- question and make thoughtful observations about starting points and select ideas to use in their work
- exploring a range of starting points for practical work [for example, themselves, their experiences, images, stories, drama, music, natural and made objects and environments]

Activity outline:

Show the pupils the image of the painting of the procession to Royal Ascot.

Discuss as a class whether this painting depicts a scene that is happening nowadays or if it is showing an event in the past? What evidence is there that it is a past event? Or an event that can take place nowadays?

Ask the class to look carefully at the painting and in pairs try to decipher 2 elements of this picture that have not changed over time using their knowledge of the livery and traditions of the royal mews stables. If they are not sure of these watch the stables videos for clarification.

Pupils can then take on the role of one of the characters in the painting, human or animal and write a short dialogue of what the thoughts are of that character as they make the journey from the Royal mews to Ascot.



SIR ALFRED JAMES MUNNINGS (1878-1959) – The State Procession to Ascot – 1925

Note: You can also view this image at full resolution through the resource bank or through the image gallery on the same page as this activity.