

Newington Green: the history trail

Newington Green is a great place for playing, learning, eating and drinking and reading and lots of us spend lots of time there. But did you know Newington Green has been a special place for hundreds of years? Today we're going to learn a bit about Newington Green's history and compare it to how we use Newington Green today.

Children work in pairs or groups, each child has a plan of the Green on a clipboard. Will need compasses and to look at a metre rule from TGC hut

What is now Newington Green used to be part of a great forest. The earliest mention of Newington Green in records dated 1480 say it is "a small clearing in Middlesex forest fringed on three sides by cottages, homesteads and farms."

Can you imagine Newington Green like that?
How many years since the first record of Newington Green?

Henry VIII used to have a hunting lodge in Newington Green where he went to hunt deer and bulls in the forest. Which building is on the south side, facing Newington Green, now? Mark the building on your map and label it.



In 1658 a terrace of houses was built at 52-55 Newington Green and these are very important because they are the oldest brick terraced houses in the country. People come from all over Britain to look at them and study them.

Walk to the West of the Green, over to the café but stay inside the park. Have a good look at these houses. Do they look older than the other houses round the Green?

Can you mark them on your map?
What symbol will you use to mark them?

Newington Green was pretty wild for the first two hundred years of its existence but in 1742 the wildness was tamed when an iron fence was put round its perimeter.

The fence builders had to calculate the perimeter so they'd know how much iron to order.

Can you choose one of the grassed areas (lawns) on Newington Green and calculate its perimeter?
Think how big a metre rule is (borrow one from the TGC hut?) and use that as a guide. Can you do one pace that is a metre? **Or two smaller ones? When you have decided, make an estimate of your answer then pace the perimeter of the lawn.** Does everyone in your group get the same answer?

My estimate.....metres
My answer measured in paces



This photo of the south west corner of the Green was taken around 1900

Can you find the South West corner of the Green on your map?
Can you mark the South West corner with an X?

The History Trail



Newington Green Mansions, pictured above, was built in 1892 and still remains today. Walk to the part of the Green where you can see it best. Does it look the same or has it changed? Mark it on your map. How many years has Newington Green Mansions been standing on this site?

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Lots of famous people have lived on Newington Green and one of the most famous, Mary Wollstonecraft, is remembered with a green plaque on the wall of Newington Green school.



Mark the Mary Wollstonecraft plaque on your map.

We've thought a lot about old times, now let's think about how we use Newington Green now.

Find the café and The Garden Classroom's hut on your map. Are they in the right places? Can you mark the silver birch trees in the middle of the Green on your map?

Lots of people have picnics on Newington Green bringing their own snacks. Or you can go to Lizzy's café and buy a snack.

Have a look at Lizzy's menu outside the café. If you had £10 to buy a drink and food for you and a friend, what would you buy?

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How much would it cost and how much change would you have?

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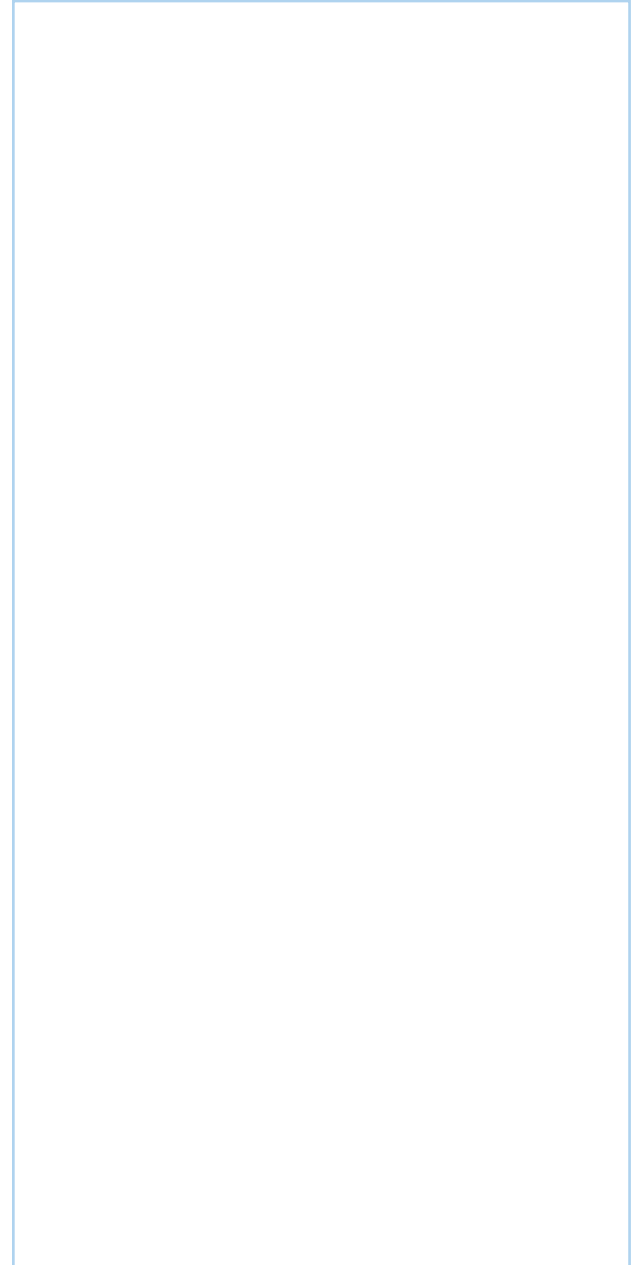
What does Lizzy do to make sure the Green stays tidy?

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Have a look at the playground.

What shapes can you see in the playground? Draw them in the box below. Can you see any lines of symmetry?



What can you do to help look after Newington Green?

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Can you find one piece of litter and put it in the bin before you go back to school?