



## Key Stage 1 - HISTORY

Lesson title – *Silkie, the berry hungry silk worm*

Time of year – all year, mulberries in July

Curriculum topic – Local people and place

### Focus of learning objectives

- Significant historical events, people and places in the locality.
- The Kitchen Garden at Chiswick House – how it was used and by whom

### Curriculum objectives

To understand historical concepts such as continuity and change, cause and consequence, similarity, difference, and significance. To use them to make connections, draw contrasts, analyse trends, frame historically valid questions and create own structured accounts, including written narratives and analyses.

### Key vocabulary

Consequence, similar, different

### Additional Curriculum links

Habitats and life cycles

### Resources required

**What we will provide:** Story of Silkie, the berry hungry silk worm

**What you should bring:** Writing materials, Clip boards

### Preparation required

- Read the **Self-led Teaching Resource – Introduction to the Kitchen Garden**
- Read: story of *Silkie, the Chiswick Silk Worm*. See end of lesson plan
- Words to *here we go round the mulberry bush*
- Life cycle of a silk worm

### Other relevant information

History of the mulberry tree in London <https://www.moruslondinium.org/> There is an entry for the Chiswick Mulberry trees.  
A picture of mulberries

### Introduction to activities

30 minutes

Explore the garden looking at the manmade structures in the garden. These include the walls and gates, cold frames and fruit cages.

- Do some of them look older than others? Which ones?



- Can you work out what they were used for?
- Sketch a picture of something manmade that you find in the garden.

### Activities in the Kitchen Garden

90 minutes

#### **Activity 1 Astonishingly old trees**

Find the mulberry tree in the garden which may date to c1682

- Explore the tree together. Look at the shape and different parts – bark, hollows and branches. How has it replaced lost or damaged parts to remain alive?
- Discuss what the tree might have seen over the years since it was planted.
- Discuss why it was planted? What might the mulberries have been used for?
- Who would have picked them and who would have eaten them?
- Draw a picture of the mulberry tree when it was young, and what it looks like now. Include the mulberries growing on the tree.

#### **Activity 2 Here we go round the mulberry bush**

Sing the song with actions “Here we go round the mulberry bush” near the tree.

#### **Activity 3 Life cycle of a silk worm**

Discuss the life cycle of a silk worm. Use story of *Silkie, the Chiswick Silk Worm* as example.

### Extension Activity

5 minutes

- Discuss the production process of silk and why it was a luxury item that few people could afford in the past and how it is a luxury item today.
- Think about the products made from silk – how would they have been used in the house? (clothing, furniture, wall hangings, carpets etc.)
- What do we use silk for today? (e.g. clothing and furniture, parachutes.)

### Health and Wellbeing focus

15 minutes

- Sit quietly under the tree and think about how long it has been in the garden. Practice some mindfulness activities.
- Use the bark of the mulberry tree for a sensory activity. Feel the bark and look for shapes and faces in it. Feel the leaves- there are different textures on each side.
- If the mulberries are in season taste them and describe what they taste of. Compare the taste with another berry e.g. raspberry or currant.

### Food growing focus

30 minutes

- What is your favourite fruit? Take a poll
- Kitchen Gardens were once common in big houses.
- What is different today? Where we get our fresh food from today?
- Collect some of the fallen fruit that you find.

### Extension activity at school

- Collect some leaves and use the leaves for art activities e.g. make a rubbing to use later to make your own tree. Don't forget to include a caterpillar!
- Write about a silkworm called Silkie who lived in the mulberry tree. What did it see? Draw a picture to illustrate.
- Watch Life Cycle of Silk Moth | How Silk is Made | Silkworm Life Cycle | Video for Kids



### The Story of *Silkie the Chiswick Silk Worm*

Silkie the Chiswick Silk Worm: the berry hungry caterpillar

With apologies to Eric Carle.

In the light of the moon a little egg lays on a big heart shaped leaf in the Kitchen Garden. He stays there for 9 to 12 days.

One Sunday morning the warm sun comes up and – pop! – out of the egg comes a tiny and berry hungry silk worm. He is called *Bombyx mori* but his friends call him Silkie.

He starts to look for some food. All he can find is delicious looking, big black mulberry tree leaves.

On Monday he takes one munch, but he is still berry hungry.

On Tuesday he takes two munches, but he is still berry hungry.

On Wednesday he takes three munches, but he is still berry hungry.

On Thursday he takes four munches, but he is still berry hungry.

On Friday he takes five munches, but he is still berry hungry.

On Saturday he eats a whole leaf, then another and another. He goes for a walk up the branch and eats another. He sees a small succulent leaf and eats that too. (and another, and another).

That night he had stomachache!

On Sunday Silkie finds one nice green leaf, and he feels much better.

Now he isn't hungry– and he isn't a little caterpillar. He is a big fat caterpillar.

He builds a small house, called a cocoon made from raw silk from a thread more than 300m meters long.

He stays in the cocoon for more than two weeks.

Then he comes out.....and.....he is a beautiful silk moth!