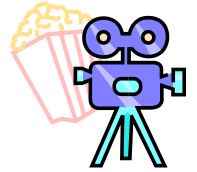




Crofting - Then and Now - Activity List



P1-4

1. **Write a poem about peat, seaweed, milk or hay** - where does it come from, what does it look like, and how does it feel when you touch it? What does it smell like? What do you see when the crofter works with it - what does he do with it, what tools does he use, is it a difficult task? What happens to it after that? What do you like about it, or dislike about it?
2. **Design your own crofting tool** - what is it? What does it look like? What is it for? What do you do with it? Make up a poster with a drawing of your tool and a description of it.
3. **Match the words** - match the Shetland crofting words to English words - how many do you know?
4. **Charades** - play charades in a group - guess the Shetland crofting word/action
5. **Write a leaflet** - write a leaflet showing us what crofting is like today - Did you see any crofters on your way to school? Did you see any crofts? Or animals - sheep? Did you see any crops growing on big fields? How many crofts are in your village? How many sheep are in your village?!

P5-7

6. **Write some diary entries** - write some entries from different times in the year - what sort of things would the writer be doing in the summer and the winter? What sort of work would they do? What sort of animals and crops would they have to look after? Would they have free time? What would they do with their free time?
7. **Create a poster** - explain a crofting job or chore - perhaps 'sheep rooing' - use interesting materials, such as wool, to show the process of rooing a sheep, what the sheep looks like, what 'rooing' involves, how many people are

needed, how you 'roo' a sheep, why you 'roo' a sheep rather than shearing the wool off.

8. **Explore a nearby area** - go and explore your local area - do you see any old croft-houses? What does it look like? Can you see other buildings nearby? Can you imagine what the croft-house might have looked like before? Can you imagine what it was like to live there? Who lived there? Who worked there? Did they keep sheep, or other animals? Did they keep crops? Can you mark on a map where you've been? Or draw a map of where you've been and what you've seen?
9. **Create a play** - in groups, create a play that shows how difficult life was for crofters who could be evicted from their homes at any time.
10. **Weave a kishie, build a boat or knit some socks** - find out how people in Shetland wove their kishie baskets, or find out how they built their big sixareens, or find out how to go about knitting some socks!
11. **Crop-growing for the school canteen** - get into groups and come up with a plan to plant crops in a school area - what would you grow? What could you grow? How could you use these crops to help the canteen staff make healthy meals for the school? Could you find some Viking recipes too? Could you grow kale, or oats, or bere?

S1-3

12. **Research and report** - research how the Crofter's Act changed the lives of crofters over Scotland. What did it mean for Shetland crofters? Did it change the way they worked on their crofts? Did it make them wealthier? Did it make life easier? What happened after the Crofter's Act was put in place?
13. **Create a poster** - make a poster showing different materials crofters used on their land - e.g. peat, hay or seaweed. What is the material? Where does it come from? How do they find it? What do they do with it? What does it do?
14. **Write up a year planner** - write a poster like a year planner describing what work needs to be done in the summer and the winter, and what

festivals are on throughout the year. Other important occasions to remember are when the men go off to the haaf and Miklsmas (29th September)

15. **Create a 'soundscape'** - make a soundscape from different recordings, which help illustrate life on a croft - these could include interviews of crofters, or the sound of a crofter casting peats or loading sheep into a flit boat. Work in groups and use your imagination! This can be audio only, or video footage. It could be a documentary style recording, or could be simply creative.
16. **Create a play** - in groups choose a festival or time of year and create a play which re-enacts either a festival or the daily goings on on a croft in Shetland - it can be indoors, outdoors, mystery, comedy, drama - anything you like!
17. **Diary entry** - write some diary entries which describes life on a croft when the lairds were in control - what work needs to be done? What happens to crops, livestock and fish when they are ready to be sold? How much money is the croft getting for the produce? Is life hard, and why?
18. **Find out about crofting today** - get in touch with a local crofter, and find out what crofting is like today. What animals does he keep? What crops? How much time does he spend on his croft? Does the family work there too? What tools and machinery does he use? What happens to his produce? Does he sell it? Who to?