

Learning objectives

- To explore the roles of people that worked in the 'big house' at Belvoir.
- Excellent communication activity.

10-15
mins

KS1
& 2

Teacher preparation

Cut and laminate role cards.

Equipment & resources

A series of taboo cards that can be handed out to pupils (see below).

Main activity

1. This activity can be done as a whole class or you can split the class in to smaller groups.
2. Give a pupil or one member of the group a taboo card. Ask them not to let anyone else see their card.
3. Ask the pupil to take on the role of the worker on their card. Ask them to read the information on the card sentence by sentence and see if the rest of the group can guess who they are. If they don't get it straight away give them more clues or ask them to act out character, but do not use the taboo word(s) at the bottom of each card.



Head groom:

"I live in the stable building. My accommodation is larger than the accommodation of the rest of the staff that live here. I'm in charge of other people and have a very important job. I am always making sure my staff are doing their jobs properly or the master's family would have to walk everywhere."

[Taboo words: head groom, groom, stable hand, horses, stables]



Groom:

"I work hard looking after the animals. I want my boss to see me do well so I can get a promotion one day. I could get better wages and a house in the stables instead of the converted stall I sleep in now."

[Taboo words: head groom, groom, stable hand, horses, stables]



Stable hand:

"I am the youngest worker here. I have to do all the mucky jobs and everyone is always ordering me about. I have to run errands for all the others but I like helping the blacksmith best because it's nice and warm in his forge."

[Taboo words: head groom, groom, stable hand, horses, stables]



Coachman:

"I wear a big heavy coat to keep me warm and dry when I take my master and his family out. The horses have to be well turned out if I am to use them. I will not hitch up a horse that is not well groomed."

[Taboo words: coachman, coach, box coat,]



Dairy man:

"I have to get up very early. I take my herd in twice a day to milk them. It is hard work, especially keeping the sheds clean. I have to keep an eye on the girls who help me. If everything goes well we have plenty for the house and the estate staff every day."

[Taboo words: dairy man, dairy, cows, dairymaid]



Gatekeeper:

"I live on the very edge of the estate. I see every one who comes and goes at the 'big house' as the carriages rumble past my door. I do odd jobs around the estate and help out on the farm from time to time."

[Taboo words: gatekeeper, gates, gate lodge]