



Year 4	Topic Title – The History of the Beacon Point To be taught alongside the local fieldwork study of the Beacon in Geography.		Key Vocabulary
<p>NC Links: A study of an aspect of history or a site dating from a period beyond 1066 that is significant in the locality.</p> <p>They should note connections, contrasts and trends over time and develop the appropriate use of historical terms. They should regularly address and sometimes devise historically valid questions about change, cause, similarity and difference, and significance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children should have the opportunity to visit the site of the Beacon Tower which is located at the Beacon point in Skelmersdale. - Know that the Beacon stands at 570ft above sea level and offers an uninterrupted view for a full 360 degrees, taking in views of the Lake District Mountains, the mountains of Snowdonia, the Pennines, the Peak District and the Cheshire Plains as well as offering a superb view of Liverpool and the Mersey and not forgetting our other famous Blackpool Tower. Situated behind the Beacon itself about 100yds away is a rock ‘plinth’ with an indicator pointing out the areas of interest that can be seen along with their distance. - Built in 1798 by Sir William Ashurst, who, fearing that Napoleon’s armies would successfully threaten England’s borders and invade decided that a more significant and permanent beacon was necessary. Prior to this, there was probably a raised metal brazier on the hill to house the warning fires, most famously to warn against the Spanish Armadas threat of invasion. - Know that the Beacon is one of a chain of Lancashire beacons that stretch from Everton Brow above Liverpool to Lancaster Castle as an early warning against invaders. - Know that by 1940, the building had fallen into a sad state of repair and had urgent remedial repairs not taken place then this little treasure could have been lost to all. - Take photographs and create sketches of the tower and compare to past photographs. - Study the photograph from 1914 (see resources) note the weather vane atop the acorn, both now missing. Discuss what they gentlemen are wearing and how this is different from what they would wear on a trip to the Beacon today. - Think about how the views would have changed over time. Identify buildings, roads and structures that would not have been there in 1914 – use Digimaps in class to investigate this further. 		Beacon Tower Point Sea level Plinth Sir William Ashurst Borders Threat Warn Invasion Buildings Roads Structures Chain Invaders
Possible Community Links and resources		Previous Learning Experiences:	Future learning experiences:
Ashurst's Beacon, Ashurst Hill, Dalton, Lancashire Educational Images Historic England Ashurst’s Beacon Under The Board (wordpress.com) (5) Skelmersdale Heritage Society Facebook Local residents and historians.		Year 1 – A study of our school and surrounding areas. Year 2 – A study of old Skelmersdale compared to new Skelmersdale.	Year 4 – A study of an area of Ormskirk linked to the Vikings Year 5 – A study of a local Tudor House in Rufford Year 6 – A study of WW2 life in the local area.