

Notes for Teachers

How to use this resource

Encourage your students to follow our research journey by reading through the resource.

They will encounter a selection of prompt questions and activities as they go through, which will encourage them to reflect on what they are reading.

2. Using Resources

Our next step was to look at what information resources were available.

First off, the Fitzwilliam Museum [website](#) gave us some basic information about the painting: when it was painted, how big it is, what it's made out of and the names of the artist and sitters.

Our next step was to consult the Fitzwilliam's object files. Every object in the museum has its own file with detailed information about where it came from, what condition it is in, and other related records and correspondence. You can contact the education department of your local museum to ask about how to access these records.

There were quite a few documents in 'The Twins' file.

Take a few minutes to look at each of them and make a note of what you find out.

- Contents of the paintings file.
- A letter to the museum from Sarah Pearce, Grace's great granddaughter.
- A photograph of a watercolour of Kate and Grace as children by their drawing tutor.
- A photograph of the twins in later life.
- A written statement from Sarah Pearce with information about Kate and Grace's family.
- A letter to the twins' mother from the artist, Millais.
- A photocopy of newspaper clippings with reviews of the painting when it was first exhibited.

What can we find out from these documents about the subjects of the painting?

The letter from Sarah Pearce was sent to the museum in 2007, and we were able to make contact with her, and with Grace's other great grandchildren, to construct a family tree.

Kate married a naval officer, Captain Hugh Gough. They had no children.

Grace also married a seafaring man, Sidney Eardley-Wilmott who wrote a number of books about the Royal Navy, became an admiral and was knighted.

Grace and Sidney had four children: Katie who died young; Guy who survived being gassed in the First World War; May who wrote the words of the song 'Little Grey Home in the West'; and Nora who married Edward Cleland Richardson, author of one of the first books in English on how to ski. Nora and Edward had two children themselves, a son and daughter who between them had six daughters and a son.

Validity of Sources

Considering the above sources and research, make a list of any potential problems that there might be with using these as part of your own research.