

Sovereign Hill Education Snapshots: Using Digital Cameras at Sovereign Hill



Digital cameras are an easy and engaging way of collecting evidence when used at a site like Sovereign Hill. Students can use their own cameras in an artistic, visual approach to analysing evidence.

This program outlines some ideas for schools. In junior levels, it may be better for teachers and their parent helpers to collect, and supervise the use of, digital cameras. In older levels, the first task for each group may be to source a useable camera. For example, a phone camera will have to be compatible with other technology used to download and present findings.

BYO Cameras

Preps – 2

Bring your teddy to Sovereign Hill and photograph his/her adventures. Refer to *Teddy's Visit to Sovereign Hill* VELS Unit in the teachers' section of our website.

For Junior Primary Schools (Years 3 – 4)

In small groups, with adult supervision, students walk around Sovereign Hill taking photos of anything that interests them. Teachers may wish to specify topics like animals, houses, costume etc. or they may let students make their own choices. Some teachers like to work on story lines with their students before coming to Sovereign Hill.

Back at school, students go through their photos with an adult, explaining why they took the shots. Short written descriptions, possibly captions, are constructed to display under each photograph.

For Middle Years Students (Years 5 – 6)

Small groups of students are given a one-word theme to explore while at Sovereign Hill. Their task is to find as much evidence as they can about their theme within one hour at Sovereign Hill. They will use digital cameras to record evidence. Before visiting, they can use the interactive map on Sovereign Hill's website to make decisions about where they might find some evidence about their theme.

Possible topics include: *Women, Housing, Wealth, Business, Mining, Technology, Entertainment, Industry, Health, Chinese, Immigration, Education.*

Back at school, students develop a PowerPoint or static presentation entitled 'What we can discover about (Topic) at Sovereign Hill.' They explain how each photo (their evidence) is relevant to the topic and what the evidence tells them.

Facilitation

These activities can be facilitated by our Education Officers at Sovereign Hill who can advise your students of suitable places to take photographs, and perhaps costume some students in our classrooms. (Students should have an idea of the photographs they wish to take before arriving.)

