



Inside Parliament Buildings

Area of Learning:

Learning for Life and Work: *Local and Global Citizenship*

Learning Intentions

By completing the activities, pupils will have the opportunity to:

- explore the functions of the three main areas of Parliament Buildings; and
- create a map and visitor guide for a trip to Parliament Buildings;

Statutory Requirements

The online and class activities will contribute to the following statutory requirements:

Learning for Life and Work: *Local and Global Citizenship*

Pupils should have opportunities to:

- investigate the basic characteristics of democracy.





Cross-Curricular Skills/Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities

The online and class activities will provide pupils with the opportunity to develop the following skills and capabilities:

Communication: Writing	By creating a guide to the Northern Ireland Assembly, based on the online activity, pupils will have the opportunity to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> communicate information, meaning, feelings, imaginings and ideas in a clear and organised way.
Using ICT	By using the information taken from the online 'tour' of the Assembly to create a podcast, pupils will have the opportunity to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> create, develop, present and publish ideas and information responsibly, using a range of digital media, manipulating a variety of assets to produce multimedia products.
Managing Information	By making notes throughout the online 'tour' of the Assembly, and repurposing them to create a guide to Stormont, pupils will have the opportunity to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop their skills in managing information, by recording and adapting information.

Overview

Through the Inside Parliament Buildings tour in the **Years 8–10** section of the [Northern Ireland Assembly Education Service](#) website, pupils can take a tour of Parliament Buildings, exploring the functions of the three main areas: Assembly Chamber, Senate Chamber and Great Hall.

The Starter Activity asks the pupils to brainstorm what they know about the work that is done at Parliament Buildings and what jobs people do there.

After exploring, in the Follow-Up Activity pupils will review the notes they have made while taking the Inside Parliament Buildings tour, using them to create a map and visitors' guide for a trip to Parliament Buildings. If the class is able to make the actual visit, the activity could be extended into a script for making a podcast during their real-life tour.

Starter Activity

Introduce the Inside Parliament Buildings tour from the **Years 8–10** section of the [Northern Ireland Assembly Education Service](#) website using the whiteboard. Explain to pupils they will be taking an online tour of Parliament Buildings, enabling them to explore the functions carried out in the main areas of the building.





Brainstorm what pupils think happens in Parliament Buildings and what kinds of jobs people do there:

- What people or events have they heard about through the media?
- Have they/family/friends ever visited Parliament Buildings?

Online Activity

As individuals or in pairs, pupils should access the Inside Parliament Buildings tour in the **Years 8–10** section of the [Northern Ireland Assembly Education Service](http://education.niassembly.gov.uk) website.

How to explore:

- Click on the Start button to review the main areas of business in Parliament Buildings: The Assembly Chamber, the Great Hall and the Senate Chamber.
- Click on these areas to view a model of the associated room.
- The What Happens Here tab at the bottom of the screen will explain the main functions of that area.
- Explore the different items in the bubbles – click to view actual photographs related to that area.
- Use the icon of Parliament Buildings on the top right of the screen to navigate through the building, or to return to the Menu.

As pupils tour the building, they should make a note of:

- the activities carried out at Parliament Buildings, for example Question time, debating, voting, press conferences, committee meetings etc; and
- the people who work there and the jobs that they do, for example MLAs, journalists, translators, witnesses, Speaker, table clerks, etc.

When the pupils have finished exploring, they should review the number of activities and people they have identified:

- Compare their findings with the results of their preliminary discussion.
- Do some people have roles in more than one area of the building?





Related Activities

The **Years 8–10** section of the [Northern Ireland Assembly Education Service](http://education.niassembly.gov.uk) website contains other multimedia resources which may be related to this activity and/or other areas of learning:

Making Laws

Find out more about the law-making process at the Northern Ireland Assembly, while creating your own bill and passing it through the various stages of the Assembly.

MLA for a Week

Take on the role of an MLA for a week and learn more about the work carried out at the Northern Ireland Assembly and in the constituency.

Who Are Your MLAs?

Use the interactive constituency map to explore the names and locations of the constituencies for the Northern Ireland Assembly elections, as well as the MLAs representing each constituency.

Evolution of Devolution

This is a timeline of historical events 1900–1999. It includes media on the opening of Parliament Buildings in 1932, the change of activities around the building during World War II and a fire in the Assembly Chamber in 1995. The politicians behind the famous statues are also detailed.

Follow-Up Activities

Ask the class to feed back what they found out during the online tour. Make a note of their suggestions on the board.

Divide the class into pairs and ask each pair to use what they have found during the tour to create a map and a visitor guide to be used on a visit to Parliament Buildings. They should include:

- a diagram showing the main rooms in Parliament Buildings and a description of each one;
- information on the main activities that take place in Parliament Buildings; and
- information on the types of jobs that people do in Parliament Buildings and what those jobs involve.

The activity above could be used to help prepare for a class visit to Parliament Buildings.





Visiting Parliament Buildings

If you do visit the Assembly, extend the activity by asking pupils to change their guide to the Northern Ireland Assembly into a script for a podcast. Ask them to make a list of people they would like to interview during their visit and the questions they would like to ask them.

While visiting the building, pupils could record their interviews and incorporate them into their podcast.

The Northern Ireland Assembly posts audio clips on Audioboo and you can listen at:

<http://audioboo.fm/niassembly>

See the Northern Ireland Assembly Education Service website for further information on visiting Parliament Buildings: <http://education.niassembly.gov.uk>

