



Teachers' Answer Sheet

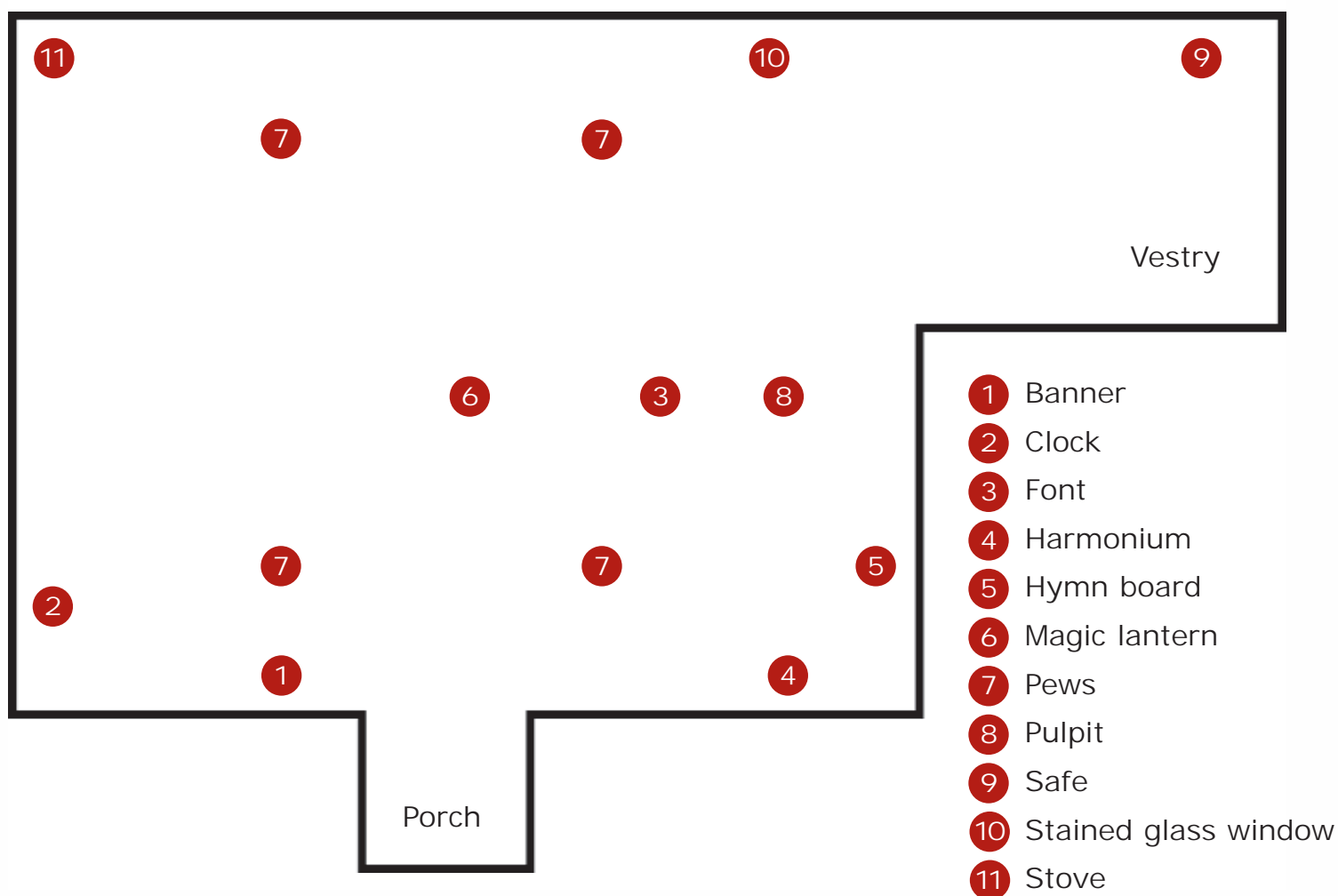
The Methodist Chapel

TASK: To find out about a 1913 Methodist chapel

The Methodist chapel at Beamish is set in 1913. It is filled with all sorts of objects to do with religious belief, worship and the chapel's upkeep. These objects are found throughout the chapel. There is often more to an object than meets the eye.

1. Explore the chapel

Explore the chapel to find the features listed and draw them onto the floor plan.





2. What am I?

Look around the chapel and use your plan to solve the clues below.

Without me, the congregation would shiver.
I am the: stove

I am uncomfortable to sit on. Beneath me
is a holder for a gentleman's hat.
I am the: pew

I am made of cloth and displayed on the
wall of the chapel. I am the: banner

I show pictures to people in the chapel.
I am the: magic lantern

I am used as an office and for meetings.
I am the: vestry

I have hands but no feet. The Minister can
see me but I am behind the congregation.
I am the: clock

3. Quick questions

What is written on the wall at
the front of the chapel?

Jesus Christ, the same yesterday,
today and forever.

Why is this a good place to
write these words?

The words are written in a very
prominent position in the chapel, in
full view of the pews and the
congregation.

They encourage the congregation to
think about the constant and
eternal nature of Jesus.

4. How would you feel?

Take a seat in a pew and imagine
you live in 1913. How would you
feel about attending this chapel
every Sunday? Why would you feel
this way?

Students will have different feelings
about being in the chapel, just as
children in 1913 would have done.

In 1913, most children attended
Sunday School. They took part in the
annual Sunday School outing to the
country or seaside, and the Sunday
School Anniversary, where the children
performed poetry, readings and sang
hymns.

Some children enjoyed chapel and
others didn't, but for many it was a
way of life.



Background information on chapel artefacts

Banner

This is a replica of the original Beamish Sunday School banner, dated 1880.

Clock

The clock is on the back wall, where it is easily seen by the Minister to help time the service.

Font

Chapels usually had a small font which was placed on top of the communion table.

Harmonium

This instrument was used to accompany singing in the chapel.

Hymn board

This tells everyone which hymns to sing in the service.

Magic lantern

Lanterns such as this were used to project images and were common in the early twentieth century. They were popular for public entertainment and were used in chapels to spread religious messages.

Pews

Each pew has a number on it for the purposes of pew renting, which was common up to the turn of the century.

This was abandoned for weekly offerings. Underneath the pews are holders for gentleman's hats.

Pulpit

The pulpit has a central position on the end wall of the chapel, facing east. In a Church of England or Catholic church the pulpit is usually in a corner position.

Safe

This is where important records, documents and the collection were kept.

Stained glass window

Most of the windows are plain glass. In Methodist chapels there was a move away from any type of iconography. Wesleyan Methodists did introduce some stained glass windows in the late 19th century. This window depicts 'The light of the world', Jesus Christ.

Stove

This is the only source of heating for the main chapel room.

Vestry

This is the general office, meeting area and committee room of the chapel. Inside are cupboards containing a small library, the communion vessels and a Love Feast mug.