

Equipped for the job



Suggested 1 lesson

An allotment can provide a rich outdoor environment in which to teach the National Curriculum, but much of the early work will have to be done by adults.

You will need:

- Strimmer to cut back any large brambles or weeds
- Garden fork or Rotavator to dig over the soil
- Spade and Hoe
- Hand trowel
- Gardening gloves
- Waste bags
- Wheelbarrow

Preparation

- <http://www.kgallotments.fsnet.co.uk/hintsandtips.html> (helpful site)
- Your growing area needs to be cleared of brambles or tall weeds. Cut them back or use a strimmer and then dig them out.
- Smaller plants or weeds need to be dug out. Remember to remove them from the root or they will grow back!
- The whole site needs digging or rotavating. You could add manure or another organic matter at this point to enrich the soil.
- Fencing or wire to keep out unattended people and animals eg dogs
- After planting, lay cardboard, grass clippings or mulch between the rows. This will block out light to prevent weed growth between crop rows and provide somewhere for pupils to stand or sit, without compacting soil, when tending crops.

1940s Equipment

The introduction of new motorised equipment has enabled farmers and small scale growers to increase their effectiveness as well as cutting time and toil on the land. Many of the modern gardening tools farmers use today, such as tractors, were available during the Second World War but there were not enough of them to go around farms and they were too large for small holdings and allotments. This meant that much of the work was done by hand.

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All pupils will: Describe and name some tools.


Most pupils will: Be able to identify tools used in the past, those used today and that many have changed by becoming mechanical.

A few pupils will: Analyse the impact of new tools, how it has made life easier and saved time.

Ready to Dig

Below are pictures of tools used on an allotment. You have to identify:

1. Which tools would be used today
2. Which ones would have been used during the Second World War
3. Which ones would have been used in the past, but are still used today

Draw a ven diagram  onto an A3 piece of paper then cut and stick the pictures in the right places. Underneath the diagram write the tools name and what job it was designed to do.

