

## Trade and Industry: Activity 1 - Market Gardening **TEACHERS' NOTES**

### Learning Objectives

- Understand that in the last few decades of the Victorian period, market gardening was an important industry in Worthing and other towns on the West Sussex coastal plain.
- Appreciate the advantage of fast railway transport for market gardening and other fresh-food industries (see also Fishing).

### Cross-curricular links

- geography (locating a street on a map, interpreting graphic information from the map)
- literacy (vocabulary, comprehension)

### Sources



Source 1a. 1901 census extracts for Ham Road



Source 1b. Typed transcript of census extract



Source 2. Detail of Raffety's 1896 map of Worthing showing the Ham Lane area



Source 3. 1906 photograph taken from Ham Bridge looking south west, showing the station (now East Worthing) and Victorian greenhouses.



Source 4. Photograph of a greenhouse with bunches of grapes, Worthing, c1900



Source 5. Photograph of the Newman family with strawberries on their market garden in the Windsor Road area of Worthing, c1895



Source 6. Photograph of the Newman family greengrocer and fruiterer shop, 34 Richmond Road, Worthing, c1895

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Source 7a. Extracts from the Worthing Diamond Jubilee Souvenir book, 1897; and the Sussex Daily News, 1906.



Source 7b. Audio version of these extracts.

### Source 1

The Census shows that many of the people living in Ham Lane (Ham Road) were market gardeners.

### Sources 2, 3 and 4.

On the map, the long, narrow, blue-grey buildings in the field are glasshouses or greenhouses, also called hothouses, used for growing fruit that needs lots of sun and warmth to ripen. The red blocks near the roads are houses or cottages. Note the terraces of cottages for workers, and the larger individual houses, probably where the owners of the land lived.

Source 3, a photograph taken from what is now East Worthing station shows extensive glasshouses in the area covered by the map, with a large villa in the background.

Source 4 shows the inside of a glasshouse where grapes are being grown.

### Sources 5, 6 and 7

In picture 5, the Newmans are growing and picking strawberries. Other crops grown in market gardens (and mentioned in source 7) were: mushrooms, grapes, strawberries, tomatoes, cucumbers, flowers.....

Most of the fruit and vegetables were sent by train to London after they were grown and other large towns such as Birmingham, Manchester, Edinburgh and Glasgow. There were 602 tons of fruit more sent to London and other cities in 1895 than in 1892.

In picture 6, most of the produce on display in the Newmans' shop - such as cucumbers, apples, tomatoes, onions, celery, cabbages and turnips - was almost certainly grown locally, but bananas, pineapples, and boxes of dates were probably imported from abroad. The first pineapple grown in England was presented to Charles II in 1661! But it would have been cultivated more as a novelty than on a commercial scale. There is no evidence of tropical fruit being grown in Worthing. Today, most of such exotic fruit is imported, and it is likely that this was the case for the bananas, dates and pineapples seen in the Newmans' shop.

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### **Source 7**

Important factors in Worthing's success in market gardening included:

- fertile soil
- a good climate which helped the produce to be ready three weeks earlier than in London
- new technology for building large glass-houses to ripen the fruit
- fast transport by train helped to get the fruit and vegetables to London and other big towns while they were still fresh

### **Railway and market gardeners**

The railway meant the market gardeners could send their produce to London and other large towns while it was still fresh. This gave them a much larger market and possibility to sell more goods than before the railway was built when they could only sell it locally.

### **Jobs and living location**

In Victorian times, people tended to live close to their jobs. Although there were some horse-drawn buses, there was not an extensive public transport system making it easy to get from one part of town to another. Also, most people (especially manual workers such as market gardeners, farmers and fishermen) did not have their own transport.

Today, there is a more extensive public transport system, and many people have their own cars, so we often live further away from where we work.