

New Lanark

An Introduction for Children



New
Lanark Trust
Education



Near the old town of Lanark, there are some powerful waterfalls. These are the Falls of Clyde. In the year 1784 a wealthy Scottish businessman called David Dale came to see the Falls. He brought with him Richard Arkwright, who was a clever inventor.

Each man had the same bright idea! Both agreed that this would be the perfect place to build a cotton spinning mill. They knew that the fast-flowing water of the River Clyde could turn water wheels and power the machinery in the mills. So, together, they built New Lanark cotton mills and village on the banks of the river. Mr Arkwright trained men to make the machines he had invented and Mr Dale got together a team of men to build the mills, the water power system and houses for workers.

When the mills were ready, raw cotton was brought in ships across the Atlantic Ocean in bales, from hot areas like the Southern States of America to Glasgow, then by horse-drawn wagons to New Lanark. It was made into thread on the huge machines inside the mills. Then it was ready for weaving into cloth.

Long hours working in David Dale's noisy, dusty mills was the norm for factory workers, including children, during the Industrial Revolution.

Although today, children are not allowed to work in factories, the New Lanark mills were quite a good place to work at that time, compared to other places, and the children who worked there were not badly treated.

New Lanark employed young apprentices to work in the mills. They had a better life in the village. If they had not come to New Lanark, they would have been left in orphanages or slums. Although, life was hard work, they had plenty to eat, clothes to wear, and they were taught to read and write.

After many years, David Dale sold the mill to his son-in-law, Robert Owen. In 1800 Mr Owen took over as manager and he made many changes. He wanted to make New Lanark a better place to live and work, and hoped other factory owners would copy his ideas.

Robert Owen believed that it was important to have happy workers, as well as a business that made lots of money. They didn't have to work for so many hours each day, and he built a Village Store where they could buy fresh food and things they needed for their homes at cheap prices.

Knowledge and learning were very important to Mr Owen. He believed that everyone had the right to an education, and so perhaps the most important thing he did was to build a School and Institute which housed a nursery, infant school, day school and evening classes.



Hello, I'm
Annie McLeod.
Visit us to find
out about my
life at New
Lanark.



This is a
bale of
cotton



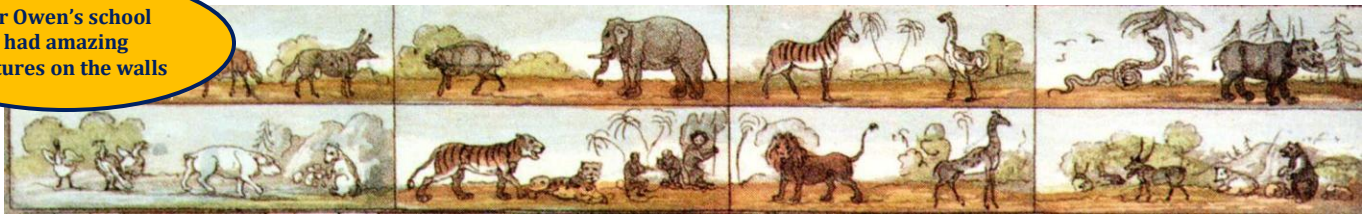
Only 10
more hours
to go!

Hello, We are Mr Dale's
apprentices in the Mill.



This is Mr
Owen

Mr Owen's school had amazing pictures on the walls



This was the first infant school in the world! Concerts and dances were also held, because Robert Owen thought music and dancing were very important. He made a woodland park, where everyone could enjoy fresh air and sunshine, and lots of the villagers had allotments where they could grow vegetables. Many visitors came from all over to see Owen's happy 'model community' at New Lanark.



The cotton mills at New Lanark carried on spinning cotton until they finally closed in 1968. You can still see the mill village today. It is looked after by New Lanark Trust. The buildings are over 200 years old. People still live in the houses, which are modern inside but look old from the outside. The mills no longer make cotton thread. They have been 'recycled' and given new uses. There is a Visitor Centre; Mill One is now a hotel and Mill 3 contains a café, shop and some of the exhibitions including a Roof Garden! New Lanark is a World Heritage Site, and people come from all over the world to visit this special village, just like they did when Robert Owen was here!



Annie plays with a gird'n'cleek

You can find out more about the history of New Lanark, and have fun too if you visit the exhibitions in the Visitor Centre. If you buy a Visitor Centre Passport Ticket you can see the *Millworkers' House*, *Robert Owen's House* and the *Village Store* exhibitions. On the exciting *Annie McLeod Experience* dark ride you can find out what life was like in the village in the 1820s. In the film theatre in the School, you can learn more about Robert Owen and his ideas. You can even dress up as a school pupil in the *Historic Classroom*. The *Interactive Gallery* is a wonderful room to explore your senses.

New Lanark is right beside the river, and you can have some lovely walks there. You can also visit the Wildlife Centre near the river where you can learn about local birds, animals, insects, plants and trees. You can walk through the woodlands to see the beautiful Corra Linn and Bonnington waterfalls. These were the inspiration for New Lanark in the first place!

New Lanark Project?

If you are doing a project about New Lanark, the very best way to find out about it is to come and visit the village. The Visitor Centre is open every day. You might be interested to know that some books and other resources are also available. Check out our website: www.newlanark.org You can also buy from our Gift Shop or by mail order (Tel: 01555 661345). Please ask an adult to help you.

Item	Cost
<i>Mr Owen's Model Village: The Story of New Lanark for Children</i>	£1.50
<i>Spindle River</i> Novel set in New Lanark in 1820s, suitable for 10+. Part of Cambridge Reading Series	£5.75
<i>Aspects of New Lanark</i> . A DVD of 6 films shown in the Visitor Centre	£12.95
Story Booklets: <i>Story of Robert Owen / Living in New Lanark / The Village Store / Roof Garden/and The Heritage Trail</i>	£1.95 each