

# Get Set

## Get Set to make a day of it!

The Olympic Park is the biggest construction site in Europe, and your students will be witnessing urban regeneration first hand. The Olympic Park itself makes a dramatic impression, and is surrounded by a fascinating urban environment. This landscape provides great opportunities for exploration and learning during your visit.

Perhaps you're coming to London for an official tour around the Olympic Park and want to make a day of it, or perhaps you're just looking for a great way to spend a day learning more about the London 2012 Games, their venues, and the east end of London. Either way, here are some suggested activities to keep you busy!

## The Greenway

Greenway is a path and walkway around part of the Olympic Park site and the focus of most of our suggested activities.

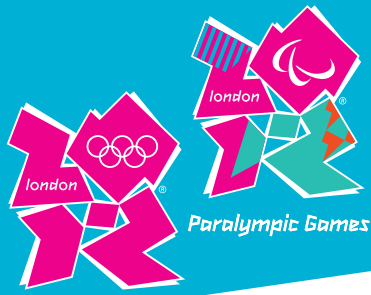
The path follows the canal, crosses a lock and skirts the Olympic Stadium. It's a hive of industry, but also a place where moorhens still build their nests and wild flowers grow.

You can take a short circular walk around the area, and stop off at Victoria Park for a run around, eat your lunch and to use the toilets.

At the beginning of the Greenway, you'll find the View Tube, an educational centre, where you can look again at the construction work in the Olympic Park. The View Tube also offers taught sessions which can be booked in advance. This might be a good option if you have a large group and want to divide the students into groups. There is a charge for these sessions.

Bicycles are also available for hire. But it's an easy walk along the Greenway, and is accessible for young children and wheelchair users.

The Greenway is best accessed from Pudding Mill station on the Docklands Light Railway, just one stop from Stratford Station.



# Get Set

## Activities for all ages

### Urban framework – a photo essay

#### Equipment

Camera

Choose a theme and create a photo essay or montage:

- contrasts
- people
- colour
- signage
- wildlife
- skylines
- construction
- reflections
- time and change

You could include in your urban framework drawings and collections of textures through taking rubbings.

- After the visit students work in groups, sharing their images and designing them into a photo-montage that illustrates the chosen theme.
- Make an exhibition of the montages on your special London 2012 display board, take a photograph and post it on your Get Set blog.



# Get Set

## A mini tournament in Victoria Park

### Equipment

A couple of footballs, or other basic games equipment.

Victoria Park is about half a mile from the View Tube. Visitors can walk along the (traffic free) Greenway for most of the way, with a short stretch on pavements and a couple of roads to cross. The park is a great place to relax and have lunch. To add a bit more physical activity to your visit there's plenty of open, safe space in the park where you can play games. There is also a children's play area, suitable for 7–11 year olds and some public toilets.

Victoria park can also be included as part of a circular walk – returning on the towpaths of the Hertford Union Canal and the River Lee Navigation. This is a slightly longer route – but no more than an additional mile.

The towpath is an interesting environment with canal boats, graffiti, trees, wildflowers, shrubs and water fowl alongside the developing Olympic Park, 19th and 20th century industrial buildings and new flats and offices. This longer return route is likely to be of more interest to older students.

## Journeys

Make the most of some of the Transport for London free travel opportunities (under 11s travel free on buses, the underground, overground and Docklands Light Railway, under 16s travel free on all London buses) and see more of the city and experience different forms of transport including the London underground, Docklands Light Railway, buses and river taxis. Why not visit the Docklands Museum in Canary Wharf, or the World Heritage Site at Greenwich?

Journey planning is a good research topic to undertake before the visit. All you need is a map of London transport. Ask the students to find out about a destination they would like to visit and which they could reach on public transport within a set time e.g. 20 minutes. Then decide on the best journey for the day and turn the plan into a reality.

Visit the Transport for London website for routes, timetables and more information on free travel:  
[www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk)



# Get Set

## Activities for 7–11 year olds

Make your way to the Greenway (a very short walk from Pudding Mill Lane station on the Docklands Light Railway) and have a go at some of these activities.

### The transport collection challenge

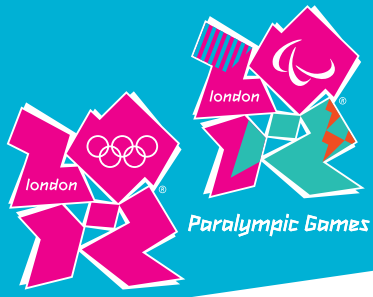
- How many different types of transport can you see in the next 40 minutes?
- Offer a bonus point for seeing transport on land, water and in the air.

### The Greenway Quiz

The answers to this quiz can all be found along a half mile stretch of the Greenway from the View Tube towards Victoria Park.

Use your eyes to puzzle out these questions. Start at the View Tube and walk along the Greenway.

1. What colour is the View Tube building? (Lime Green)
2. Where can you buy a cup of tea? (Pudding Mill Lane Station or the View Tube Café)
3. Where can you sit on a sleeper? (benches along the Greenway are made from old railway sleepers)
4. Stop on the bridge which crosses the River Lee Navigation. What is the bridge called? (Old Ford Lock)
5. What is the name sign made of and where is it written? (Iron – on the ground)
6. What can you see from the bridge that changes the level of the water? (a lock)
7. Stay on the bridge and look the other way. How many large pipes can you see? (2)
8. What do you think is in the pipes? (sewage)
9. How old are they: e.g. about ten years, 50 years, 100 years, even older? (These pipes were constructed in 1862 with Joseph Bazalgette as the engineer)
10. Carry on to the end of this section of the Greenway. Where could you see something yellow in the sky? (On top of the industrial chimney there's a sign for 'Big yellow Storage.')

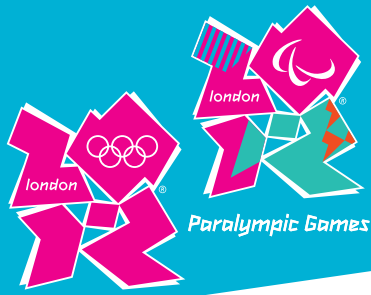


# Get Set

## Sound collection

Children work with a partner. They must both sign with their initials to say that heard the sound. They can add more sounds if they **BOTH** hear them.

bird song		
footsteps		
drill		
traffic		
speech		
trains		
wind in the leaves		
water		
dog		
siren		



# Get Set

## Activities for 11–14 year olds

Make your way to the Greenway (a very short walk from Pudding Mill Lane station on the Docklands Light Railway) and have a go at some of these activities.

### Soundscape

Ask the students to use their ears as well as their eyes and to make a collection of sounds as they walk on the footpaths around the site.

They can use their collection to:

- annotate their photos
- draw out the route of a soundscape walk
- inspire them to write a poem or rap about the sounds of the Olympic Park.
- post your poems and raps on your Get Set blog.

### On your feet

Equip the students with a pedometer and set them off on a walk down the Greenway. Just before Old Ford Lock Bridge a set of steps takes you down to the towpath on the River Lee Navigation. Several short walks are signposted at this point (from one mile to approximately five miles).

You could issue a challenge at the beginning of the session to complete a couple of miles and/or to see who walks the farthest.

### Legacy – my stadium

From their observations of the Olympic Stadium ask the students to draw up a plan outlining how the stadium could be used after 2012.



# Get Set

## Activities for 16–19 year olds

### It's all in a name

- Uncover history by researching the fascinating place names. Pudding Mill Lane itself was once situated on the Pudding Mill River – a minor tributary of the River Lee. In turn, the river was named after a wind powered mill which was probably called 'pudding' after its shape.
- A walk in any direction will reveal a great collection of place names. By walking along the Greenway towards Victoria Park, turning right down the steps into the old industrial area and then heading back towards Old Ford Locks the students should locate these places: Pudding Mill Lane, Swan Wharf, Bream Street, Dace Road and Smeed Road.
- Challenge them to find out what they can about the history of the area through researching these names.

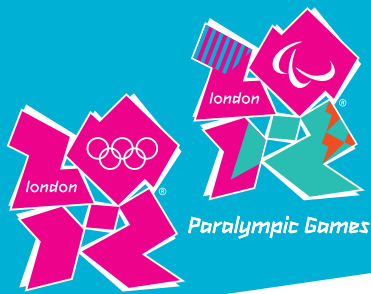
### The Great Stink!

Before the trip, students could research 'The Great Stink' of 1858, and the achievements of the engineer Joseph Bazalgette who constructed eighty five miles of new sewers re-routing the sewage from directly flowing into the Thames up river.

It's possible to walk to the Abbey Mills Pumping Station – nicknamed 'The Cathedral of Sewage'. You will need to pre-book a tour if you want to do more than marvel at the architecture from the outside.

### Design and dream

As you walk along the Greenway, ask the students to look closely, and to photograph if possible, a particular place or building on the construction site e.g. a half-demolished building, or a pile of building rubble etc. After the visit, the students design what they think this spot will look like in 2012.



# Get Set

## 16–19

### Local enterprise

- Take a look at the area surrounding the Olympic Park and survey the local enterprise which is currently up and running.
- By walking along the Greenway and then exploring the side streets, the students will find all kinds of initiatives taking place including an iron works, art studios, a timber yard, an old peanut factory and storage facilities. Many units are advertised as being empty.
- How do the students think the London 2012 Games might help to invigorate the area, and what possibilities are there for the entrepreneur?

### Legacy – after the show was over

- Following the visit, draft out a proposal for a local business keen to capitalise on the business opportunities made possible by the London 2012 Games. Consider the impact for example on local shops or on house owners with good views and spare rooms to rent.
- Have a debate: Do the students agree with a report by the Economic Development, Culture, Sport and Tourism Committee which said, “The media centre and the Olympic Stadium are potentially the most important venues in terms of attracting jobs and investment to the park?”

### And there's more...

If you have additional budget you might like to use the following facilities:

#### **[www.theviewtube.co.uk](http://www.theviewtube.co.uk)**

The View Tube includes a café, education, arts and information spaces with a panoramic view over the Olympic Park and Stratford City.

#### **[www.bikeworks.org.uk](http://www.bikeworks.org.uk)**

Provide bike hire and guided tours starting from the View Tube.