

## Teachers Notes

### The Fur Trail looks at economic activity.

It considers the global range of the fur trade and its recent striking growth. Statistics are introduced, as are geographical data about climate and distribution.

The trade routes, which transport fur around the world, are described.

These routes are complex, because the trail is a long one: from farm to auction house, where the graders sort and bundle the pelts for the buyers to choose before they bid, and the auctioneers orchestrate the bidding; then the pelts are dressed, which involves cleaning, softening, preserving, drying and often dyeing; the designer then enters the picture, because fur is an important material in modern fashion; the designs are then made up by the manufacturer, who uses traditional skills but also takes advantage of the latest technological developments; to complete this long trail we look at the role of retailers. Many of these stages are illustrated by short case studies.

The pack looks at the important role that the UK plays in the fur trade. Although fur has not been farmed in the UK since 2003, London is a major trading centre.

In addition to the data and case study information sheets, there are also short video clips illustrating aspects of the fur trade.

