

Spooky Britain

Teacher's Notes **A2+** **B1**



Shine Bright 2^{de} File 4
Mystery in the countryside

Objectifs

- ▶ **AXE DU PROGRAMME** : Le village, le quartier, la ville / Passé dans le présent
- ▶ **OBJECTIFS LINGUISTIQUES** :
Grammaire : prétérit
Lexique : expression de la peur, personnages de légendes
- ▶ **OBJECTIFS PRAGMATIQUES** : expression orale en continu
- ▶ **OBJECTIFS CULTURELS** : légendes britanniques
- ▶ **OBJECTIF METHODOLOGIQUE** : commenter une carte géographique

Présentation du document

▶ INFORMATIONS SUR LE DOCUMENT

La carte 'Spooky Britain' figure à la page 45 de *Shine Bright 2^{de}* et participe à l'introduction du *File 4 Mystery in the countryside*. Nous vous proposons ici une utilisation plus approfondie du document par le biais de sa version en ligne :

<https://www.visitbritain.com/au/en/explore-britains-spookiest-locations-our-map>

L'idée est également d'amener les élèves à se repérer sur un site internet dévolu au tourisme.

La carte 'Spooky Britain' présente de façon ludique et attrayante 26 sites répartis sur toute l'île (d'Edinburgh à Portsmouth en passant par le Pays de Galles) et dont le fil directeur/point commun est la présence

supposée d'activités paranormales (fantômes en tout genre, histoires macabres, lieux effrayants...) ainsi que des propositions d'activités touristiques (visites guidées, dîner ou nuit dans un lieu hanté, découverte de lieux ayant inspiré de célèbres romans...). Chaque site est identifié par un symbole : une image du lieu à visiter, du fantôme censé le hanter, des personnages qui l'ont rendu célèbre. Il suffit de cliquer sur l'icône en question pour faire apparaître un court texte explicatif qui retrace le récit du lieu et met en exergue ce qui en fait le caractère effrayant. Le ton des encadrés/vignettes est à la fois macabre et humoristique, plusieurs d'entre eux se terminent par une invitation

à venir vérifier par soi-même la véracité des phénomènes paranormaux évoqués ('Dare you to stay over!', 'Fancy it?', 'Judge for yourself.'). Les textes en question sont également disponibles dans leur intégralité en dessous de la carte mais cette configuration, d'évidence moins ludique, ne permet pas une approche par aires géographiques des sites.

Les éléments principaux sont facilement repérables (lieux, personnages, événements macabres, exploitation touristique des sites) mais certains points de lexique peuvent se révéler difficile pour des élèves de niveau A2+-B1. Une activité de manipulation du lexique (voir Worksheet) peut être proposée en introduction.

► TEXTE

Selon l'équipement et le temps disponible, vous pourrez choisir entre faire lire sur le site ou fournir les textes (ou des extraits) ci-dessous.

1. The most haunted city in Europe?

Edinburgh certainly has a few grisly secrets under its sporran. From the Black Death, which claimed countless victims, to Mary King's Close where plague victims were sealed up to die, Edinburgh is as ghoulish as it is beautiful. There are rumours of phantom pipers, spirits from prisoners of war and even a headless drummer.

2. This village has its own Fright Corner

Pretty Pluckley in Kent has been hailed the most haunted village in Britain – backed by the Guinness Book of World Records in 1989. With no fewer than 16 reported sightings, you can see why. There's a screaming man, a highwayman who appears at Fright Corner, a schoolmaster hanged by children and an old woman who sits on a bridge smoking.

Les textes figurant sur la carte sont retranscrits ci-dessous et répartis dans les pistes d'exploitation par aires géographiques de la façon suivante :

Northern Britain: **1.** Edinburgh **7.** Lancaster **9.** Muncaster Castle **13.** Northumberland **18.** Isle of Skye **19.** Chillingham Castle **22.** Cawdor Castle **23.** Whitby Abbey
Western Britain: **3.** Cornwall **4.** Dartmoor **5.** St Briavel's Castle **10.** Warwick **14.** Salisbury **16.** Eyam **25.** Bardsey Island **26.** Abergavenny
Eastern Britain: **2.** Pluckley **6.** Hampton Court Palace **8.** London **11.** Pontefract **12.** Norwich **15.** Cambridge **17.** Portsmouth **21.** Lincoln **24.** Dunwich

Bet Halloween here is fun.

3. This is no pussycat

If you find yourself on the wild and windswept moors of Cornwall at dusk, try not to dwell on The Beast. He's the product of some 60 sightings: a panther-like big cat, 3-to-5 feet (1.5m) long with white-yellow eyes. He's also partial to the local livestock, with several mutilations reported. Evidence has been so compelling, the government ordered an official investigation in 1995.

4. Monoliths, huts and graves, oh my!

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was rather spooked by his stay at the Duchy Hotel – now the Dartmoor National Park Visitor Centre – and it inspired him to write Hound of the Baskervilles. He said the moors held "dwellings of prehistoric man, strange monoliths, huts and graves". And little has changed – Dartmoor remains a truly atmospheric location.

5. Spooky graffiti

At 800 years old, St Briavels Castle – now a YHA hostel – has seen it all. But its gatehouse still holds horrible secrets. Visitors here report a strange atmosphere, and its walls bear graffiti carved by ancient prisoners: “Robin Belcher. The day will come that thou shalt answer for it for thou hast sworn against me, 1671” reads one example. Dare you to stay over!

6. Joined in unholy matrimony

Henry VIII himself is said to haunt Hampton Court Palace, along with 2 of his wives – Jane Seymour has been seen gliding around and Catherine Howard has been heard shrieking in the gallery. But in 2003, they were all joined by a new ghoul called the “Skeletor”. He was caught on CCTV opening a fire door near Clock Court with great force. He disappeared before security could get there.

7. Britain’s most notorious witches

Lancaster Castle holds a sad secret. More than 400 years ago, 10 people were found guilty of witchcraft here and executed on the nearby moors. Evidence against them was flimsy, but religious persecution was rife in 1612. It became Britain’s most notorious witch trial and you can retrace their final steps from the wild and rugged Pendle Hill to the grand court of Lancaster.

8. Victorian Crime Scene Investigation

London’s most notorious homicidal gent, Jack the Ripper needs no introduction. Darkest Whitechapel, Jack’s old gaff, still has dark corners, cobbled streets and echoes aplenty. Hunt the killer yourself with an Original Jack the Ripper Crime Scene Investigation tour, or dive into the

atmospheric Ten Bells pub in Spitalfields, where 2 of his victims were said to drink.

9. A ghostly Roman fort

It’s said to be one of the UK’s most haunted castles. And local archaeological work may have revealed why: Muncaster Castle near Ravenglass, Cumbria was built close to a large Roman fort. The third generation of the Pennington family continue to live there, despite the ghosts who are said to live there too.

10. Frightening phenomena at Warwick

Warwick hosts an enormous castle. And with battle, execution, plague, plotting and witchcraft within its ancient walls, it’s no wonder the place is brimming with ghosts. It’s a hive of paranormal activity where people have witnessed some truly frightening phenomena. The world famous castle even offers an overnight ghost hunt. Fancy it?

11. Sad monk of Pontefract

Tourists from all over the world have reported the same thing at this ancient castle – a monk dressed in black. He walks from the ruins of the kitchen, up the steps to the remnants of the Queen’s Tower. Always from west to east, and always at 5pm. Some visitors say he shakes and looks sad. Judge for yourself.

12. Pints and poltergeist in Norwich

The cosy old Adam and Eve Public House in Norwich dates back to 1249 when it was a monastic brewhouse. So it’s no surprise its spirits are of the paranormal kind too. A ghost called Sam appears most often, and likes to ring bells, move ashtrays and run his fingers through customers’ hair. “Sam” is thought to be Lord Sheffield who died here during Robert Kett’s rebellion. Dare you stop

by for a pint?

13. Cosy seat by a chimney

Dorothy Forster is said to haunt The Lord Crewe Arms in Northumberland. She was sister to Tom Forster, Jacobite army general in the 1715 uprising. Tom hid in a giant fireplace in this romantic pub nestled in a honey-stone village. Take a peek inside the chimney to spot the hiding hole.

14. The haunted Haunch of Venison

Have a pint in the presence of a Grey Lady and a one-handed whist player who had his hand chopped off after cheating in a card game. Held up by giant oak beams thought to come from ancient sailing vessels, this eerie Salisbury inn dates back to the early 1300s and once housed craftsmen working on Salisbury Cathedral's spire.

15. Fragrant ghost of Cambridge

The Haunted Bookshop sits in a quiet passage in Cambridge. Over the last decade, a female ghost has started to haunt the stairs of the bookshop, smelling faintly of violets. Many believe she is connected to the shop's former life as an alehouse and the violent history that came along with it. Go along and browse the bookshelves and see what smells waft your way.

16. A marooned village

The seemingly charming village of Eyam in the Peak District is infamously known as the location where the Great Plague of 1665 started after the village tailor received plague-ridden material from London. To stop the disease spreading, the village cut itself off from the outside world. Inevitably, this has brought a slew of ghosts to look out for – there's a haunted pub, a haunted cottage and Eyam Hall is haunted by a young serving girl.

17. What became of the drunken sailor?

Portsmouth has a dark history of murder, mayhem, plotting and politics. At its heart stands the Spice Island Inn, in the city's old quarter. This hearty drinking hole has seen many a drink-sodden sailor staggering through its doors, plus many a crook and pirate. Does this atmospheric pub have ghosts? Oh yes. See for yourself m' hearties.

18. Dark happenings on the Isle of Skye

The Isle of Skye may look beautiful, but there are dark happenings underneath. Venture out at night and you might just run into the ghost of an outlaw named MacRaing. Or head to the eerily beautiful Loch Coruisk where a dreaded water horse – known locally as a kelpie – is said to dwell.

19. The ghostly procession of Chillingham Castle

Chillingham Castle has remained largely unaltered since its ancient battling days, so it comes as no surprise that it's said to be awash with paranormal activity. Sightings range from the wandering Lady Mary to the ghostly royal procession. Best of all you can spend the night in one of their apartments...if you dare.

20. The White Lady of Samlesbury Hall

Renowned as one of the most haunted locations in Britain, Samlesbury Hall has its own resident spirits including the legendary White Lady, Dorothy Southworth, who died of a broken heart. The hall, embracing its spooky charm, hosts regular ghost-hunts, and is a stunning place to stay and dine – when the ghosts keep at bay of course.

21. The Headless Horseman of Lincoln

The site of an ancient Roman city and of a 13th-century battle just screams spooky. One of its most haunting stories, perhaps,

is that of the headless horseman. Said to be a highwayman cut down by a soldier as he attempted to flee his death-sentence, it seems the headless horseman is doomed to repeat his failed escape forever.

22. Murder at Cawdor Castle

The most chilling sighting at the castle is the ghost of a handless girl, rumoured to be the Earl of Cawdor's daughter. Legend has it that after flattering an enemy chieftain's son, the insulted Earl chased her to the highest tower, where she attempted to lower herself from the window only for him to chop off her hands sending her to her death.

23. The vampire of Whitby Abbey

The dramatic ruins of Whitby Abbey are guaranteed to send shivers down the spine of even the most lionhearted explorers. It's no wonder then that Bram Stoker concocted the infamous and chilling story of Dracula in this seemingly sleepy seaside town. We recommend, if you haven't already, reading the book before you visit...

24. The lost city of England

The Anglo-Saxon town of Dunwich once stood as the proud capital of the Kingdom of the Eastern Angles, matching

14th-century London in size. However, after a huge storm and eroding cliffs, the town now lies beneath the waves off the Norfolk coast and some say you can hear the old church bells still ringing...

25. The Island of 20,000 saints

Once the site of an ancient monastery, tiny Bardsey Island off the coast of Wales is said to be the burial site of thousands of saints. Some believe it's the location where King Arthur is buried, while others believe it's a burial site for countless monks – which would explain the ghosts of robed figures said to haunt the island...

26. The most haunted pub in Wales?

The Skirrid Mountain Inn in Abergavenny is one of the oldest, and many say, the most haunted pub in Wales. With a history dating back to the Norman Conquest this building has seen every horror from executions to witchcraft. Stay overnight for a daunting experience — slamming doors, loud footsteps and even hushed voices await you on your ghost hunts here.

VisitBritain.com

PISTES D'EXPLOITATION

Option 1 : Découverte de la carte et préparation d'un circuit touristique

1. Dans le cas de figure où la carte n'aurait pas été exploitée lors des activités d'introduction du chapitre (DISCOVER AND SHARE), il peut se révéler utile de commencer par faire présenter le document par les élèves : identification du type de

document, du site sur lequel il est disponible, de sa thématique et de sa fonction. Cela peut être l'occasion d'effectuer quelques rappels relatifs à la géographie de la Grande Bretagne (en s'appuyant sur la carte 'The British Isles' figurant à la fin du manuel).

2. Afin de motiver la découverte des différentes vignettes, les élèves peuvent

se voir attribuer la mission d'explorer une région de la Grande Bretagne afin de préparer un voyage scolaire sur le thème de 'Mysteries of Britain'. Les différentes recherches effectuées seront alors restituées sous la forme d'une présentation censée convaincre ses camarades / la classe d'opter pour la visite de l'une ou l'autre des régions de l'île avec comme fil directeur la découverte de ce qui a inspiré toutes sortes d'histoires mystérieuses en Grande Bretagne.

Les élèves peuvent être répartis en groupes selon les aires géographiques suggérées précédemment (*Northern, Southwest and Southeast Britain*).

Chaque groupe commence par prendre connaissance des sites à visiter dans la région qu'il s'est vu attribuer avec comme première consigne l'identification des lieux à visiter et le ou les événements qui

3. A l'issue de ce premier relevé, on amènera les élèves à s'interroger sur le caractère particulièrement effrayant des événements en question ainsi que sur les procédés utilisés pour mettre en exergue ces éléments. Cette activité nourrira le lexique des élèves pour la tâche finale du chapitre : écrire une ébauche de nouvelle sur un mystère dans un village.

4. Les élèves s'intéresseront enfin à l'exploitation touristique des lieux présentés afin d'établir une liste d'activités à effectuer dans le cadre d'un voyage scolaire (visites, repas, hébergement...).

5. Les élèves utilisent les informations relevées afin de préparer une présentation

d'un circuit touristique à effectuer dans le cadre d'un voyage scolaire sur le thème de "Mysteries of Britain". Bien sûr selon le temps disponible, on peut demander aux élèves de ne présenter qu'un, deux ou trois lieux.

Option 2 : Jeu en équipes

En fonction du temps dont vous disposez ainsi que de vos objectifs, vous pouvez également utiliser le site afin d'organiser un jeu de pistes. Figurent ci-dessous des exemples de défis ou questions à soumettre aux élèves répartis par équipes.

Les élèves peuvent également se voir attribuer la tâche d'élaborer des énigmes (par aires géographiques) qu'ils soumettent à leurs camarades.

L'attribution d'aires géographiques peut éventuellement être maintenue afin de rendre les recherches plus aisées et de permettre des restitutions à la classe.

Exemples de 'défis' à relever :

Find a spooky story which took place in a castle.

Find one mystery about witches (and present it in your own words to the class).

Find the three sites which have / a site which has inspired famous works of fiction.

If you want to spend the night over in a spooky place, where can you go?

If you fancy a dinner or a drink among ghosts, where can you go?

If you are into murder stories, where should you go?

What do Warwick Castle and Edinburgh have in common?

► POUR ALLER PLUS LOIN

D'autres cartes thématiques sont disponibles sur le site visitbritain.com, qui propose des idées d'activités en fonction des goûts / centres d'intérêt de chacun. Une activité d'approfondissement peut consister en la découverte du site par les élèves avec comme mission d'élaborer un séjour en Grande Bretagne autour du thème de leur choix. L'onglet 'Things to do' de ce site propose toutes sortes de cartes ('Top film and TV locations', 'Royal Britain', 'Foodie map'...).

► CORRIGÉS

Vocabulary 1.a. ghosts b. just before nightfall c. screaming d. moving quietly as if floating e. disappeared f. strange g. walk aimlessly h. makes me tremble

2.a. frightening b. scared c. fear d. afraid

3.a. 2 b. 7 c. 6 d. 5 e. 1 f. 4 g. 3

4.a. die b. dead c. dead/to die d. death

5.a. ghost b. sailor c. witch d. pirate
e. skeleton

Compréhension a. There are all sorts of places: cities, towns, villages, castles, pubs....

Events and people:

Examples for Northern Britain: ghosts, victims of the plague, witches, executions, haunted castle, a fugitive rebel who hid in a fireplace, a supernatural water horse (kelpie), the ghost of a handless girl, vampires.

Examples for Western Britain: a panther-like beast, ancient monoliths, graffiti from long-ago prisoners, a haunted castle, haunted pubs, victims of the plague, ghost monks and the burial place of King Arthur, the murderer Jack the Ripper,

Examples for Eastern Britain: the most haunted village in Britain, King Henry VIII, two of his wives and the "skeleton", a ghost monk in a castle and a poltergeist in a pub, a female ghost in a bookshop and pirate

ghosts in an inn, a headless horseman and a village that disappeared under the sea.

b. Examples for Northern Britain: "grisly secrets", "as ghoulish as it is beautiful", "you can retrace their final steps", "It's said to be one of the UK's most haunted castles", "Take a peek inside the chimney to spot the hiding hole", "may look beautiful, but there are dark happenings underneath", "you might just run into the ghost of an outlaw", "eerily beautiful", Best of all you can spend the night in one of their apartments... if you dare.", "The most chilling sighting", "dramatic ruins", "send shivers down the spine".

Examples for Western Britain: "try not to dwell on", "a truly atmospheric location", "holds horrible secrets", "Dare you to stay over!", "it's no wonder the place is brimming with ghosts", "offers an overnight ghost hunt. Fancy it?", "infamously known as", "the ghosts of robed figures said to haunt the island...", "this building has seen every horror", "Stay overnight for a daunting experience".

Examples for Eastern Britain: "hailed the most haunted village in Britain – backed by the *Guinness Book of World Records*", ". With no fewer than 16 reported sightings",

"by a new ghoul called the 'Skeletor'", "most notorious homicidal gent", "Some visitors say", "Judge for yourself", "Dare you stop by", "the violent history", "Go along and browse the bookshelves and see what", "a dark history of murder, mayhem, plotting and politics", "See for yourself", "just screams spooky", "the headless horseman is doomed to repeat his failed escape".

c. Examples for Northern Britain:

history of the plague, witch trials, Roman occupation of Britain, the 1715 Jacobite uprising, outlaws, folk stories (water horse), battles, royal procession, the novel *Dracula*. You can spend a night in a haunted castle.

Examples for Western Britain: *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, Conan Doyle, Sherlock Holmes, prehistoric monoliths, the Great Plague, King Arthur. You can stay in a castle transformed into a youth hostel. Overnight ghost hunts. You can drink in a haunted inn.

Examples for Eastern Britain: Halloween, King Henry VIII, Jack the Ripper, Roman

occupation of Britain, Anglo-Saxon history. You can go on a crime scene investigation tour. You can try to see a ghost monk. You can drink in a haunted pub where a poltergeist runs its fingers through customers' hair. You can visit a bookshop and try to smell a ghost's perfume.