

**Document 1** - School children watching a meet of Mid Devon Hounds at Spreyton, 1907



## Questions for discussion

### A. Observation

1. Describe the clothes and hats worn by the boys and girls in the photo. How are they different from today?
2. Do the children themselves look any different from today's children (hair, weight, etc.)?
3. How many boys and how many girls were in the photo?
4. What was the weather like on the day the photo was taken?

### B. Thinking about the evidence and making deductions

4. Look for the horse. What is the equipment on its back? Was it about to join the hunt?
5. Is there any evidence that the photo was taken at a meet of the Mid Devon Hounds? How do we know it was?
6. What does the writing tell us? Who was supposed to read it? It looks a bit wobbly – why?

### C. Interpretation

7. Write a story or a play, or draw a picture using the evidence in the photo. It could be what happened before or after the photo was taken, or the story of the life of one of the people in the photo.
8. Use this photo and documents 2 and 3 to make a costume catalogue, comparing 1905-9 with today. Use other sources to fill the gaps.

## Teachers' Notes

A3. Brainstorm reasons why there could have been more girls than boys in the photo, e.g. illness, chance, population imbalance, boys away elsewhere, boys opted out. Compare with the ratios in school today.

B4. The horse in the background is harnessed for pulling a cart, so would not be joining the hunt unless it was transporting people or goods.

B5. The only evidence that it was at a meet is from the information with the photo – there are no hounds or huntsmen. However the occasion would have brought out the people for the photo, dressed in their clean pinafores. Photos in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century were a novelty, and were normally posed because of the slow exposure times. Children could imagine the photographer under his black cloth, with the camera on a tripod.

B6. The writing suggests that the photo was not taken for the people in the photo (who would have wanted a more specific label), but was probably for sale as a postcard. Labels were written on the glass plate negative and had to be done in reverse – hence the wobbly writing (see the 'y' and the two versions of the 'n'). The fact that the writing is different from the other information attached to the photo (i.e. that it was taken at a meet of the Mid Devon Hounds) suggests that the photo was kept by someone local who knew of the occasion, rather than someone who bought the postcard.