

The Library in Tatton Park's Mansion



Tatton Park's library contains over 8,000 books! That's a lot of books to organise, clean and store. The books were collected by the Egerton family over three centuries and include subjects such as Music, Travel, Art - and even how to bring up children!

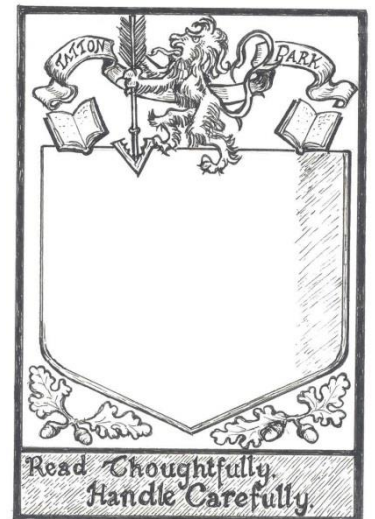
Here are a few fun activities for you to try in the classroom or at home

How would you design and organise your own library?

Activity 1: Create a Bookplate

A bookplate is a decorative label that is glued into a book, to tell you who owns the book. On the right is an example of a bookplate at Tatton Park. It has beautiful designs, including a lion, which is the symbol of the Egerton family who used to live there. The blank space in the middle is where the owner of the book would write their name, plus any other information, such as their address, or maybe the date.

Create your own bookplate from a piece of card or thick paper measuring approximately 8 x 6 cm. Try some different designs and think about what symbols or pictures would tell people something about you. Your bookplate could say "This book belongs to..." and your name. Be inventive with colours and designs. When you have finished, you could glue this in the front of one of your books, but remember to ask adult permission first!



TIP: You could also make some for your friends and family. You may like to write "Ex libris..." on your bookplates. This is Latin for "From the library of..."



Activity 2: Organise your library

The books in the library at Tatton Park are grouped into themes. If you visit a local library, you will find that books are also organised by theme and then further arranged into alphabetical order. Most public libraries in the UK use a sorting system called Dewey Decimal Classification.

Arrange your own collection of books using whatever system you prefer.

- **Alphabetical order by author**
- **By type, e.g. fiction, non-fiction**
- **By theme, e.g. books about pirates (both fiction and non-fiction)**
- **Into sections for books you have read and books still to read**

This will be really helpful when you're looking for a particular book.

Activity 3: A design for your library

The library at Tatton Park was very carefully planned and furnished to meet the different needs of the family living there. The Egertons spent a lot of time in their library. It has an area for reading, a desk for letter writing and an area for playing games, such as chess and cards. Libraries were much used in the days before computers and television.

Draw a picture of your own imaginary library. Think about:

- **Who would be using the room? Would it just be you, or other people too?**
- **Where would you put the bookshelves and how many would you need?**
- **What type of furniture would you include?**
- **What colour theme would the library have?**
- **How would the room be decorated?**
- **What could you include that would make this a lovely place to read and relax?**

Fun Fact: To reach books high up on the shelves, the Egertons owned a "Metamorphic Chair". This is an ingenious chair which is hinged, to turn from a seat into library steps! You can see a model of this remarkable chair below.

