

Aston Hall

KS2 History

Answer the questions. Make one sketch at each stop on a separate piece of plain paper.

➤ **Outside**

Aston Hall was built by a man called Sir Thomas Holte nearly 400 years ago. He wanted an impressive looking house to show that he was rich and important.

1. Say what you think makes the house look **grand**.

2. Draw a ring around the **building materials** listed here that you can see :-

brick stone mortar plastic tile iron wood lead glass copper slate

➤ **Entrance Hall**

Important people who came to see Sir Thomas were greeted in this grand hall before being swept up the main stairs to lovely rooms on the first floor. It was also used as a dining room by the 40 servants.

3. How was the room **heated**? _____

4. How was the room **lit**? _____

5. What clue tells us the **servants** ate in here?(look on the fireplace _____)

Sir Thomas Holte's picture hangs on the top half of one wall.

6. How can you tell he lived nearly 400 years ago? _____

➤ **Great Parlour**

Sir Thomas and his family ate in here. He married twice and he had 16 children altogether.

7. Circle the words which best describe the **chairs and tables**:-

heavy light wooden plain decorated solid
comfortable hard dark curved

8. The **rush matting** on the floor is made from **plants / metal** (Underline the right answer).

➤ **The Main Stairs**

This type of stairs which turns around an open stair well (there is nothing holding it up on the outside) is called cantilevered .

9. How can you tell this is the **best stairs**? _____

The First Floor Landing (the hole in the staircase)

Sir Thomas Holte's new house was attacked in 1642 during the seventeenth century Civil War. This hole reminds us of that attack.

10. What caused the **hole**? _____

➤ **Great Dining Room**

Guests were given sumptuous feasts and entertained here. The food would have included roast swans, peacocks and amazing pastry dishes. This would have been followed by fantastic plays, jesters, music and dancing.

11. How can you tell the **ceiling and fireplace** come from the time the house was built?

➤ **King Charles' Bedroom**

This was the best bedroom for the most important visitor.

12. How was the room **heated** in the winter? _____

13. Describe or give a name for the **bed**? _____

➤ **Green Drawing Room**

Sweetmeats like marzipan (marzipan) or suckets (sugared fruit) were eaten in here after the main meal.

14. Describe the **ceiling**. _____

Long Gallery

A long room to walk up and down when the weather was wet.

15. Look at the **walls**, the **ceiling** and the **fireplace**. What tells you this was a room where grand guests were brought? _____

➤ **Dick's Garret**

This is where 10 to 15 servants slept on straw on the floor.

16. How does this room look **different** to the ones used by visitors on the first floor.

Two ghosts are supposed to walk about these attics - the ghost of a servant who killed himself up here and the ghost of one of Sir Thomas' daughters who he had locked in an attic room for disobeying him.

➤ The Kitchen

The kitchen was changed after Sir Thomas died but the table, meat chopping block, meat safe (to keep cooked meat cold) and the sink are much the same as in his day.

17. What is the **sink** made from?

18. They did not have taps. Where do you think the **water** came from?

19. How was **meat** cooked?
