

Tea Time and Toys

Teacher Notes

Length: 60 minutes

Meeting point:

Your presenter will meet you at the **Group Entrance**.

New National Curriculum links at KS1:

History

- To explore the lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national and international achievements (Queen Victoria)
- To investigate significant historical events, people and places in their own locality
- To develop an awareness of the past, using common words and phrases relating to the passing of time
- To identify similarities and differences between ways of life in different periods

Spoken Language

- To ask relevant questions to extend their understanding and knowledge
- To articulate and justify answers, arguments and opinions
- To participate in discussions, role play and improvisations

Session objectives:

During this session the children will enter the world of Victorian Britain by exploring toys and other objects of the time. They will be given the opportunity to investigate and discuss how these objects were used, as well as make a craft item of their own to take home.

This session aims to excite and engage children in learning about life in the Victorian era, comparing it to their modern day experiences. The group will learn who Queen Victoria was, as well as discover some of the major changes that happened during her reign. Speaking, listening and enquiry skills will be developed and supported throughout by the session facilitator.

During the session pupils will:

- Handle a range of objects from Victorian times;
- Discuss and justify what their uses might have been;



- Compare life in the Victorian era with that of today;
- Empathise with children of different backgrounds in the Victorian era;
- Plan a small thaumatrope and finish it off at school.

Preparation for your session:

In order to help your pupils get the most out of this session, it would be great, where possible, to ensure that they are aware of the following subjects and concepts prior to their visit:

- An idea of who Queen Victoria was and where her life sits chronologically in relation to other time periods they have studied and the present day, perhaps through a timeline activity or Horrible Histories clip;
- Understand how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources, with different types of historical evidence surviving from the Victorian period (particularly objects, photographs and, later on, film);
- Use their discoveries to draw brief comparisons between their own lives and of those living in the past;
- Empathise with historical characters through drama and discussion;

During your session:

Please note that the 1:10 staff to pupil ratio, which we ask for throughout your visit to Kensington Palace, still applies during your teaching session. We ask that sufficient adults remain with your group as they will be encouraged to join in with the session activities. Please brief adults that are attending the sessions that they will be asked to help facilitate and guide the pupils' discussion, as well as support with additional needs, such as reading session handouts.

Follow-up activities:

A visit to a historical site can be an excellent way to help stimulate children's imaginations in relation to a particular area of study. Below we have listed some ideas that can be carried out at school following your visit to Kensington Palace. We hope that these might offer some ways to help extend the children's learning and interest not only in history but also a range of subjects.

Ideas for Literacy

- Write a newspaper report or diary entry of the trip to Kensington Palace, with particular focus on the items explored from the Victorian era. Include illustrations or images to support.



- Write in role as a child of the time, exploring a day in their life. This can be supported by hotseat or short drama activities to imagine life as someone else.

Ideas for History

- Create “What am I?” presentations and challenges (with careful clues!) for other classes or parents, sharing what they have learnt about objects from the Victorian era (perhaps a nice activity for an assembly).
- ‘How to Impress a King or Queen’ - Look at the sort of behaviour you would need to follow in order to impress Queen Victoria. Write a ‘how to’ guide or list detailing the do’s and don’ts.
- Research the kinds of foods that would have been eaten by Victorian royalty and write your own menu and/or have your own Victorian feast! Compare this with the foods eaten by different members of society.
- Create posters detailing the major technological advancements and changes that happened during the Victorian era (eg. the London underground, growing cities, photography, telephones, automobiles). The class could also explore local Victorian buildings to see how many still exist today.

Ideas for Art

- Build upon the thaumatropes created in the session by making more elaborate or brightly coloured versions.
- Explore some basic animation techniques.

Ideas for PE/ Dance

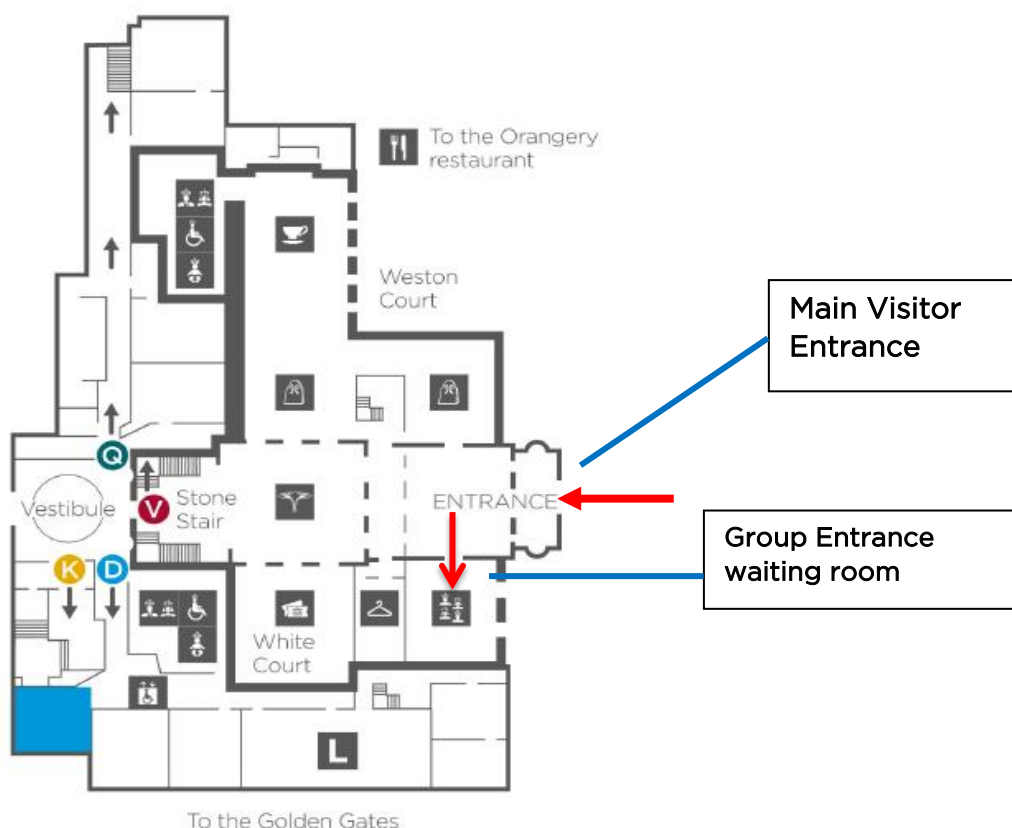
- Learn or choreograph your own formal Victorian dance to perform to Queen Victoria (you could perform this in an assembly or to parents!).
- Look at the sports and games that became popular during the Victorian era that are still played today. The class could also explore some Victorian children’s playground games (eg. hopscotch, hoop and stick).

Please see overleaf for directions to the Group Entrance.





Directions to the Group Entrance:



- On arrival enter Kensington Palace via the main visitor entrance
- Bring your group into the **Group Entrance**, directly to your left
- Students should remain in the Group Entrance while the teacher/group registers with our Team
- Groups can leave coats/ bags etc in the wardrobe facilities in the Group Entrance waiting room
- A member of the Welcome Team or volunteer on duty will show you how to access the main visitor routes and the meeting point for your pre-booked taught session

