



HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES

Victoria and India: Perspectives on Empire

Teacher notes

Duration: 90 minutes

Meeting Point: White Court

Queen Victoria's interest and involvement with India began years before she was officially crowned Empress of India in 1876, and gradually India came to be seen as the 'jewel in the crown' of the British Empire.

This session will explore Victoria's relationship with India, focusing particularly on the Queen's friendship with Duleep Singh, the deposed Maharaja of the Sikh Empire. Through examination of primary sources from Victoria's reign, students will analyse the complexities of British rule in India and Victoria's role within it.

Learning objectives

Students will:

- Use primary sources to explore the growth of the British Empire during the reign of Queen Victoria, with a particular focus on British rule in India and Victoria's role as Empress.
- Extend their knowledge of empire through the analysis of Queen Victoria's relationships, and what they tell us about her as a wife, mother and Empress.

National Curriculum links

This session supports:

- Ideas, political power, industry and empire: Britain 1745-1901 – the development of the British Empire.
- Understanding historical concepts such as continuity and change, cause and consequence, similarity, difference and significance, and using them to make connections, draw contrasts, analyse trends and frame historically-valid questions.
- Knowing and understanding the history of these islands as a coherent, chronological narrative, from the earliest times to the present day: how people's lives have shaped this nation and how Britain has influenced and been influenced by the wider world.



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During your session:

Please note that the 1:10 staff to student ratio which we ask for throughout your visit still applies during your learning session. We ask that sufficient adults remain with the group as they will be encouraged to join in with the session activities.

The session your group has booked with us takes place on the visitor route and in a learning space at Kensington Palace.

Please meet your session presenter in White Court (star on map below). We recommend that you arrive 15 minutes before the start of your session.

