

Teacher's Notes – Victorian Life

The selection of activities in this topic are designed to support the exploration of the Victorian era by Key stage 1 and 2 pupils by introducing the local Horsham perspective of the Albery Poster Collection. The activities and worksheets link the topic to curriculum subjects such as; history, English, art and design, IT and maths as detailed below.

Introduction Presentation

Learning Objective

Pupils will gain a basic understanding of life in the Victorian Era.

Age group

Recommended for Key Stages 1 – 2.

Description

The presentation looks at the era as a whole and introduces the Albery Poster collection as a source from that time. Description focuses on changes to life in Victorian times due to invention and innovation.

Curriculum Links

This presentation is linked to the new 2014 history curriculum's overall aims to ensure all pupils:

- know and understand the history of these islands as a coherent, chronological narrative.
- gain an understanding abstract concepts of empire.

Specifically Key Stage 1 history aims of:

- identifying similarities and differences between ways of life in different periods.
- Teaching pupils about the lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national and international achievements.
- Teaching pupils about significant historical events, people and places in their own locality.

Specifically Key stage 2 History aims of:

- studying an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils' chronological knowledge beyond 1066.
- A study of an aspect of history dating from a period beyond 1066 that is significant in the locality.

Teaching ideas

Use as a presentation in the classroom to provide a basic overview of the Victorian era. It can be used to introduce pupils to the topic and/or provide a refresh of the topic to pupils re-examining it in later years.

Find out More

West Sussex County Council, Learning Resources, Victorian West Sussex at:

http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/learning/learning_resources/victorian_west_sussex/learn_about_the_victorians.aspx



Activity: Victorian Timeline

Learning Objective

Pupils should be able to understand and demonstrate the historical chronology of the Victorian era through the life of the significant individual Queen Victoria and links to their own locality.

Age Group

Recommended for Key stage 1- 2.

Description

Instructions and a series of cards with which to create a physical timeline in your classroom with the children.

Curriculum links

This activity is linked to the new 2014 history curriculum's overall aims to ensure all pupils:

- know and understand the history of these islands as a coherent, chronological narrative.

Specifically Key Stage 1 History aims of:

- Know where the people and events they study fit within a chronological framework
- Teaching pupils about the lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national and international achievements.
- Teaching pupils about significant historical events, people and places in their own locality.

Specifically Key stage 2 History aims of:

- studying an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils' chronological knowledge beyond 1066.
- A study of an aspect of history dating from a period beyond 1066 that is significant in the locality.

Teaching ideas

Read through the background and instructions with the class. Tie the knots in the string as instructed and make sure the concept is clear. Have the children as a group arrange the cards on the timeline and discuss how/why. The blank cards at the back of this activity can be used to identify other events you are discussing with the class about this topic. This would be a good exercise to use if you have the education officers in to give one of their Victorian workshops before they arrive to give the students awareness of the time period being discussed. After the workshop the blank cards could be used to add in any more events/dates the children have learned to the timeline. If there is enough space in your classroom why not extend the timeline to show just how far away other significant historical events are out-with the Victorian period and how far the period is from today.



Worksheet 1 – Jubilee Diary**Learning Objective**

Pupils should comprehend the info read out loud and use it to compose their own sentences.

Age group

Recommended for Key stage 1

Curriculum links

English key stage 1 reading comprehension

- listening to and discussing non-fiction at a level beyond that at which they can read independently
- participate in discussion about what is read to them, taking turns and listening to what others say

English key stage 1 writing composition pupils will be taught to write sentences by

- saying out loud what they are going to write about composing a sentence orally before writing it
- sequencing sentences to form short narratives
- re-reading what they have written to check that it makes sense
- discuss what they have written with the teacher or other pupils
- read aloud their writing clearly enough to be heard by their peers and the teacher.

History Key stage 1

- To encourage further investigation into life of significant individual Queen Victoria and explore a significant event in their own locality.

Teaching Ideas

The information sheet with the poster should be shown and talked through first with the whole class. The sheet can also be printed and handed round as a reference. There is an opportunity to allow the students to read their work out loud and discuss what they have written with the class.



Worksheet 2 - Inventions

Learning Objective

Pupils will be able to recognise some of the differences between the modern period and the Victorian through inventions.

Age group

Recommended for Key Stage 1

Description

A fun activity sheet of pictures of Victorian and modern inventions.

Curriculum links

Key Stage 1 History aims of:

- identifying similarities and differences between ways of life in different periods.

Teaching ideas

Talk to the class about Victorian inventions, some useful sources and links are suggested below. Distribute copies of the sheet amongst the class, working as individuals or in groups pupils will identify the inventions that are Victorian.

There is the opportunity to follow this up with a discussion about how these inventions would have changed the lives of families at the time.

Useful sources

Horrible Histories – Victorian Inventions video at <http://vimeo.com/14027652>

BBC Primary History – Victorian Britain

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/victorian_britain/



Worksheet 3- Printing

Learning objective

Pupil should be able to demonstrate their understanding of the development of Victorian printing processes by how they affected poster design.

Age group

Recommended for Key stage 2

Description

Information of the mechanical processes of printing methods followed by exercises that help the understanding of parts of the process e.g. typesetting and colour printing. Also an exercise that challenges their reasoning and understanding of the changes to how posters were made at the beginning and end of the Victorian era.

Curriculum links

English at lower key stage 2 years 3-4 reading comprehension from hearing unfamiliar non-fiction text out loud. At upper key stage 2 years 5-6 reading comprehension from reading and hearing unfamiliar non-fiction text.

Specifically Key stage 2 History aims of

- studying an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils' chronological knowledge beyond 1066.
- A study of an aspect of history dating from a period beyond 1066 that is significant in the locality.

Teaching ideas

The background information should be read out loud by teacher, or at older stages by pupils, to allow questions from the class if there is any misunderstanding of the processes. Exercise 2 requires precision and going through the instructions with the class first would be recommended. Exercise 3 can easily be adapted to a group exercise to allow discussion or used individually as a measure of their understanding of the information given.



Worksheet 4 –The Railway

Learning Objectives

- Pupils should gain an understanding of how the railway came to Horsham.
- Pupils will use methods of historical enquiry to gain knowledge from primary sources.

Age groups

Recommended for Upper Key stage 2, years 5 and 6.

Description

Background information to the period of railway mania and how Horsham first got a railway line. Two sources looking at Horsham's railway from the point of view of why one was wanted and the experience of the first railway passengers. Simplified versions of the source text is provided with a short glossary.

Curriculum links

History Key stage 2 specifically:

- A study of an aspect or theme in British History that extends pupils' chronological knowledge beyond 1066, in this case the significant turning point in British history of the first railways.
- Also relevant to a local history study of a significant aspect of history from a period beyond 1066 that is significant to the locality.

Also general history aim of understanding methods of historical enquiry – how evidence is used to make historical claims.

Teaching ideas

Use this activity to introduce a significant turning point in British history - – the innovation and spread of the Railway - from a local study perspective. Also encourage the analysis of historical evidence for information about events and begin to consider the validity of the sources used. The background and source information would benefit from being read aloud by teacher or pupils to support understanding of the historical topic and the use of English. The discussion of answers with the class following the exercise would be a useful tool to encourage independent reasoning on some of the less clear cut questions. The railway poster is used in the Education Officers Victorian workshop as one of a selection, this worksheet would provide a useful in depth follow up to the interactive workshop.



Explore the archive

Learning objective

- Pupils will be able to use the search functions of the Horsham Poster website
- Pupils will be able to demonstrate their understanding of organising information into a table format.

Age group

Recommended for Upper Key stage 2 years 5-6

Description

Instructions on how to search the online archive at Horshamposters.com and exercises to practice using those functions. Images of six posters for creating a basic table categorising the posters. Separate word file which can be opened in word by pupils and typed into.

Curriculum links

Key stage 2 Computing: use search technologies on a website and understand how the information has been arranged.

Maths: construct a table and sort objects into categories.

Teaching ideas

This exercise is designed to be undertaken by pupils on computers but print outs of the instructions, worksheet and six posters would be helpful. Download the 'poster database template' word document and put it somewhere students can access and save their own copy. It is recommended that the instructions on using the Search functions should be gone through as a class first to make sure they are understood. For the database exercise pupils can work individually or in pairs/groups.



Extension activities

Contact our education officers to book a school workshop where they will bring the Victorian era to life with artefacts, role-play and a detailed look at other posters from the collection – their details are on the website www.horshamposters.com.

For pupils looking into Victorian transport the Bluebell railway and yards is a fascinating location for finding out more about the steam train.



References

- Posters are from Horsham Museum's archive www.horshamposters.com unless otherwise stated.
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- 'History of Posters' <http://www.designhistory.org/>
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Images

- Poster images are from Horsham Museum's archive www.horshamposters.com unless otherwise stated and are free to reuse for non-commercial educational purposes with the attribute 'Poster no.: ??? © Horsham District Council's Horsham Museum and Art Gallery'
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