

LEEDS CASTLE'S VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS



A Victorian Christmas - Teacher's Notes and Guidance

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

This workshop is designed to cover a selection of requirements for History, Drama, English and Literacy at Key Stage 2.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The workshop is led by Leeds Castle education staff who will engage the children in thinking about lives of a bygone age that were so very different from their own. They will experience what it was like to be a child at school in the Victorian era, and that despite the differences, traditions remain the same,.

WORKSHOP SESSION

The children and teachers are encouraged to come in costume, but we have enough pinafores and waistcoats for those children not able to do so.

A Victorian Day will bring to life and enable the children to experience what a day at school in Victorian times was really like. They will be encouraged to think what life might have been like without the communication systems and technology of today.

During the workshop the children will meet two teachers from the Leeds Castle school room who have been transported from the year 1875. The teachers will instruct the children on the behaviour expected of them and teach them the basic rules and manners of that era.

During the session the children will be expected to observe the rules, and they will learn about posture and deportment using back boards and books!

Following the session the children will visit the Castle, where they will meet a member of the household or possibly Lord Phillip or Lady Elizabeth. They will be introduced to them formally before having a guided tour of the Castle which has been traditionally dressed for Christmas.

The children will then eat their lunch Victorian style in the Education Centre. After lunch the children will hear some Christmas stories narrated by Lady Elizabeth and the teachers. The day is rounded off with the class singing *The 12 days of Christmas*. You may wish to practice this beforehand.

TIMETABLE OF THE DAY

This workshop is an all day workshop written for a maximum of 40 children. The children will get the most out of their day if it is only one group. We recognise however that this is not always possible and we can accommodate up to 70, although it may not always be possible to eat in the Education Centre. The timetable you follow will depend upon the size of your group.

The timings shown are approximate and can vary depending on how the workshop and tours progress. We are able to be flexible and the Education Leaders will consult with you on the day if there are particular circumstances or considerations.

Timetable 1 - For group size 40 and below

WHOLE GROUP	
10.00 am	Coach to drive to Ticket Office where you will be met by your Education Leader.
10.15 am	Directed to the Education Centre by staff
10.30 am	Workshop session
11.30 am	Guided Tour of the Castle
12.30 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	Storytelling
1.30 pm	Free time – depart when you are ready.

Timetable 2 - For group size 41 – 75

GROUP A		GROUP B	
10.00 am	Coach to drive to Ticket Office where you will be met by your Education Leader.		
10.15 am	Directed to the Education Centre by staff		
10.30 am	Workshop session	10.30 am	Guided tour of Castle
11.30 am	Guided tour of Castle	11.30 am	Workshop session
12.30 pm	Lunch & Free Time		
1:00pm	Storytelling		
1.30pm	Free time – depart when you are ready.		



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 1870 it became compulsory for all children to attend school between the ages of 5 – 10.

Between the years 1860 – 1874, new inventions included the light bulb, linoleum, repeating rifle, revolving machine gun, mechanical submarine, pasteurisation, the roller coaster, barbed wire, dynamite, vacuum cleaner, cable car, denim and in June of 1875 the telephone.

Although the people at the time may not have realised it, it was an innovative and inventive time to live in!

It was a time when ‘children were seen and not heard’ and being a child in Victorian times meant following the rules!

In 1875 Queen Victoria had been on the throne for 38 years, and a widow for 14 years. The Prime Minister at the time was Benjamin Disraeli.

The owner of Leeds Castle at this time was Philip Wykeham Martin, son of Charles Wykeham Martin who was responsible writing a ‘History of Leeds Castle’ book, which we still use today for reference. Philip Wykeham Martin was a Member of Parliament for Rochester, and lived at Leeds Castle with his wife Elizabeth.

The tour of the Castle, decorated for Christmas, coupled with the telling of traditional stories will combine, what may appear to the children, to be austere times, with the happiness and joy of Christmas, and how traditions stay the same even though lives change with the progress of time.

TIMELINE

- 1837 Queen Victoria inherits the throne aged 18
- 1838 Oliver Twist, by Charles Dickens, is published
- First photograph taken by inventor Louis Daguerre Slavery in England is abolished
- 1840 Queen Victoria marries Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg of Gotha
- 1841 Great Western Railway between London and Bristol opened
- 1842 Factory Act forbids the employment of children in coal mines
- 1845 Potato famine in Ireland
- 1847 Factory Act limits children's working hours to 10 per day
- 1850s Crinoline is fashionable for women and girls
- 1851 The Great Exhibition opens in Hyde Park Ice Cream invented in USA
- 1852 First public flushing toilet in London
- 1854 – 1856 Crimean War – Florence Nightingale sent to Scutari to tend injured soldiers
- 1861 Prince Albert dies of typhoid
- 1863 First underground railway built in London
- 1868 Last public hanging
- 1869 First Sainsbury's store opened
- 1870 Education Act makes school compulsory for children aged 5-10 years
Dr. Barnardo opens first home for poor boys in East End
- 1875 Telephone invented by Alexander Graham Bell
- 1879 Thomas Edison invents the electric light
- 1891 Schooling is made free for all
- 1894 First motor car is brought to Britain from Germany
- 1899 Boer War begins (ends 1902)
- 1901 Queen Victoria dies

Storytelling & Drama

- Ask a child to choose one of the servants who might have worked in the household and use mime to act the character to the rest of the class. Can they convey by movement and expression what job they may have had?
- Divide the children into pairs or small groups. Using one of the inventions of the day encourage them to devise a TV interview with the Inventor. They will need to think about the interviewer's questions as well as the answers from the interviewee. This could be recorded, or performed in front of the class.

Finding Out

- Using available informational sources such as books and the internet encourage the children to find out more facts about Leeds Castle and what it might have been like before the innovations of the day.
- Encourage the children to think about what life was like for the people in the Castle during this time, upstairs and downstairs.
- Encourage research into what life was like for ordinary people, like themselves. How did the children live? Was their 'after school' time, like it is today?

Writing

- Either alone, or in groups, imagine that Queen Victoria is going to visit Leeds Castle. What preparations would need to be made? What meals arranged? Write a newspaper article about the visit.

Art & Design

- Ask the children to make a model of Leeds Castle, and how it looked at this time. This could be a simple castle shape or an advanced model of the Castle complete with the moat and other buildings, depending on ages and abilities