

## KS2 HISTORY

### British history study – the Victorians

#### A Typical KS2 Visit

After receiving an introduction to The Workhouse, children don a workhouse uniform. They are then immersed in the year 1841 for the whole morning. They will meet the Master or Matron, who will classify them according to gender and explain the management of the workhouse. They are led on a tour by a pauper inmate, when children will have the opportunity to ask questions. A Victorian Schoolroom lesson is provided, where children will learn by rote.

To conclude the morning children sit down for a session handling Victorian objects.

This series of activities is intended for a visit from 10:00 to 12:30.

The group can use the stables for lunch.

In addition we offer a number of workshops that run from 13:00 to 14:30 which you may wish to book for your group.

#### Workshop options

These activities are available as 1 – 1 ½ hour afternoon sessions to follow the morning session detailed above. Please see sheet entitled ‘Essential Information’ for details of costs.

1. Workhouse discussion (suitable for years 5 & 6)

Children are split into smaller groups and they discuss aspects of the workhouse such as education, the uniform, conditions etc. They decide whether they think workhouses should have existed in the 1840s. This activity looks at the pros and cons of the workhouse system.

2. Human rights discussion (suitable for years 4-6)

In small groups, pupils look at object cards to decide which of the things pictured are ‘needs’ and which are ‘wants’. In their group they must decide which 8 of the 24 cards are most important. They include clean water, a personal computer, education and freedom to practice your own religion. Groups must then present their decisions to the rest of the class to find out if they have reached a consensus.

3. The Carney Family (suitable for years 4-6)

A drama based workshop. Children hear the story of a family that came to the Workhouse and what became of them. Children work in small groups to prepare a performance of the scenes and can either work from the scripts or improvise their performances. The children then re-assemble to perform their scenes and, for the first time, see the story unfold in its entirety. You could help us by splitting children into

groups in advance. Please ask for details. **This activity is suitable for a minimum of 25 students.**

4. The Workhouse Boy Frozen Tableau (recommended for years 3 & 4)

Children hear the outline of a story about a boy whose life is transformed by his time in the Workhouse. Children then work in small groups to prepare a performance of the scenes with a few of the better readers acting as narrators and the remaining children working with frozen drama techniques and mime to recreate the scenes. The children then re-assemble to perform their scenes and, for the first time, see the story unfold in its entirety.

5. Literacy – Storytelling workshop (recommended for years 3 & 4)

Children listen to a story about a boy and girl called Lucy and George and how they came to be living in the Workhouse. It provides reinforcement of the morning's activities. They then explore some of the main characters from the story by 'hot-seating', before developing alternative endings for the story. This can be continued back at school with a story writing exercise.

6. Victorian Toys (recommended for years 3 and 4)

This compares and contrasts modern and Victorian toys – what they are made of, what they actually do, etc. All the children get a chance to play with Victorian toys. This leads on to a discussion about what the pauper children who came to the Workhouse may have owned, and how pauper children would have played. **Not suitable for groups of more than 35 children**

**When booking a KS2 visit to The Workhouse which includes an afternoon session, please specify which workshop you would like to use.**

**Contact the Community Learning Officer on 01636 817262 to book.**

## ESSENTIAL PREPARATION

**Children should research workhouse inmates, and will be prepared with a name and a character and reason for being in the Workhouse (see attached identity cards).**

In order to make a role-play visit more personal, pupils should come to The Workhouse as a character that they have found in the identity cards. Some of the identity cards are linked by family.

## IDEAS FOR ADDITIONAL PREPARATION

Some teachers find that it helps to prepare the children for role-play by practicing in school beforehand. You could teach a 20 minute lesson in role as a **Victorian school teacher**, using a dunce's cap and a blackboard. This has the advantage of helping children to understand that the schoolteacher (who is actually their favourite teacher) is a person in character, like an actor, and is not to be feared.

Some teachers give **character preparation** for homework the week before the visit. After spending some time understanding the Victorians, children should be able to carry out some independent research to prepare their characters. This might include writing a short life story. For example:

*"My name is Sam Greensmith. I am nine years old. My parents both died of cholera two years ago and I have been living with my grandparents since then. I got a job as a chimney boy when I was seven years old, but I was clumsy and grew too big so my master sent me away. My grandfather died recently and my grandmother can't work and has no money so she has brought me to the workhouse. We both have to live here until one of us can get a job."*

The Workhouse can provide additional materials on request. We also recommend [www.workhouses.org.uk](http://www.workhouses.org.uk) for background information.

<p>Susannah Kelk</p> <p>Aged 4</p> <p>I have come today with my grandfather, who is poorly, and my brother William.</p>	<p>Martha Grundy</p> <p>Aged 6</p> <p>Orphan. I have no where else to go and I am very scared.</p>
<p>Mary Ann Mettam</p> <p>Aged 8</p> <p>I have come with my parents and I do not have any brothers or sisters. My father hopes to find work soon and he is sorry that we are here.</p>	<p>Sarah Wilkinson</p> <p>Aged 8</p> <p>I have come today with my brother Matthew, who is 6, and my father, who lost his job.</p>
<p>Laititia Clarke</p> <p>Aged 9</p> <p>I have come with my mother and grandfather. My mother lost her job and hopes we will be out soon; I do too.</p>	<p>Eleana Fines</p> <p>Aged 9</p> <p>I have come today with my brother Charles, who is 13, and my mother. My father passed away last week. We have no money left</p>
<p>Sarah Smith</p> <p>Aged 9</p> <p>My parents left me as it they could not afford to look after me any more. They told me to come to the Workhouse.</p>	<p>Sarah Shaw</p> <p>Aged 9</p> <p>I am here today with my brother James, who is 5, and my sister. My mother died when she gave birth to James and my father died two days ago. We have no where else to go.</p>
<p>Emma Gilbert</p> <p>Aged 10</p> <p>I am here with my parents, my brother Sam and my sisters. My father lost his job and our home.</p>	<p>Sarah Gilbert</p> <p>Aged 10</p> <p>I am here with my parents, my brother Sam and my sisters. My father lost his job and our home.</p>
<p>Terissha Rollison</p> <p>Aged 10</p> <p>Orphan. My father died a year ago and my mother died a few weeks ago. I cannot get a job yet but I hope to be out of the Workhouse quickly.</p>	<p>Charlotte Pearson</p> <p>Aged 10</p> <p>I am here with my parents and grandmother. I did have a brother but he died a few weeks ago.</p>

<p>Sarah Mayfield</p> <p>Aged 11</p> <p>I am here with my older brother, who is 18, and my parents. My father and brother lost their jobs but they hope to get another job when the fields need harvesting.</p>	<p>Maria Shaw</p> <p>Aged 12</p> <p>I am here today with my brother James, who is 5, and my sister. My mother died when she gave birth to James and my father died two days ago. We have nowhere else to go.</p>
<p>Hannah Herring</p> <p>Aged 13</p> <p>I am here as I have nowhere else to go my grandmother looked after me while she could, but she is too old now.</p>	<p>Emma Watson</p> <p>Aged 14</p> <p>I am here with my mother. She is ill and I have not found a job yet.</p>
<p>Harriet Small</p> <p>Aged 14</p> <p>I am here with my father. He has lost his job. I hope that soon I can get a job.</p>	<p>Maria Ancliffe</p> <p>Aged 5</p> <p>I am here with John my brother and Ann my sister. Our parents both died a few days ago because they gave all their food to us.</p>
<p>Elizabeth Joynt</p> <p>Aged 7</p> <p>I am here with my mother and grandmother. My mother has not got enough money to look after us all. She cannot stop crying.</p>	<p>Mary Smith</p> <p>Aged 8</p> <p>Orphan. My mother died when she gave birth to me and my father died a few weeks ago. I am hungry and tired.</p>

<p>Charlotte Lawson</p> <p>Aged 8</p> <p>I am here with my parents, grandfather and grandmother. We have not lived in Southwell long but my father has now lost his job, so we are all in the Workhouse now.</p>	<p>Mary Gilbert</p> <p>Aged 8</p> <p>I am here with my parents, sisters and brother. My father lost his job and our home.</p>
<p>Ann Mottershaw</p> <p>Aged 9</p> <p>Orphan. I have nowhere else to go and I feel very scared. The Workhouse looks like a very scary place.</p>	<p>Ann Fogg</p> <p>Aged 10</p> <p>I have come to the Workhouse with my sister, my brother and our father, who is ill. I hope my brother John will be all right, as I shall be with Sarah.</p>
<p>Ann Selby</p> <p>Aged 11</p> <p>Orphan. I have nowhere else to go. I have not eaten for days. I am cold and tired.</p>	<p>Sarah Fogg</p> <p>Aged 12</p> <p>I have come to the Workhouse with my two sisters, my brother and our father, who is ill. I hope my brother John will be all right, as I shall be with Ann.</p>

<p>Ann Duckenfield</p> <p>Aged 12</p> <p>I am here with my grandfather, as he is poorly and cannot find a job. Hopefully he will get better soon and I will look after him when I get a job.</p>	<p>Ann Broom</p> <p>Aged 12</p> <p>I am here with my father and my grandmother. I am scared and upset as I know I will not see them.</p>
<p>Ann Ancliffe</p> <p>Aged 12</p> <p>I am here with John my brother and Maria my sister. Our parents both died a few days ago because they gave all their food to us. Hopefully I can get a job soon to look after John and Maria.</p>	<p>Hannah Adcock</p> <p>Aged 14</p> <p>My parents have both died now and I have no family left. It will not be long before I can get a job in a big house as a servant, but I am scared.</p>
<p>William Mosley</p> <p>Aged 9</p> <p>Orphan. My parents died in a house fire.</p>	<p>George Ramsdale</p> <p>Aged 8</p> <p>I have come to the Workhouse with my mother and grandfather.</p>
<p>John Ward</p> <p>Aged 7</p> <p>I have come with my parents and grandmother. My father lost his job so we lost our house too.</p>	<p>William Kirkham</p> <p>Aged 7</p> <p>Orphan. I have no where else to go and I have no family left.</p>
<p>Charles Stocks</p> <p>Aged 7</p> <p>I have come to the workhouse with my mother who is having a baby and who has lost her job.</p>	<p>James Ogden</p> <p>Aged 7</p> <p>Orphan. My mother died a year ago and now my father has too, so I have no where else to go except the Workhouse.</p>
<p>Matthew Wilkinson</p> <p>Aged 6</p> <p>I have come today with my sister Sarah who is 8 and my father who lost his job.</p>	<p>William Kelk</p> <p>Aged 6</p> <p>I have come today with my grandfather, who can no longer work, and my sister.</p>
<p>John Widowson</p> <p>Aged 6</p> <p>My parents and grandfather have come today with me as we have no money left.</p>	<p>John Mosley</p> <p>Aged 6</p> <p>Orphan. My parents died when I was 4 and my sister died last week. She looked after me.</p>

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<p>James Shaw</p> <p>Aged 5</p> <p>I am here today with my two sisters. My mother died when she gave birth to me and my father died two days ago. We have no where else to go.</p>	<p>Sam Gilbert</p> <p>Aged 5</p> <p>I am here with my parents and sisters. My father lost his job and our home.</p>
<p>Richard Barnsdale</p> <p>Aged 5</p> <p>I have no where else to go and I lost my parents a few days ago. The farmer told me to come here.</p>	<p>Richard Moucher</p> <p>Aged 4</p> <p>I have come with my mother. She is in the women's section. We have no money left.</p>
<p>Charles Fines</p> <p>Aged 13</p> <p>I have come today with my sister Eleana, who is 9, and my mother. My father passed away last week. We have no money left.</p>	<p>William Haslam</p> <p>Aged 14</p> <p>I have come with my mother. She had an accident and can no longer work. I do not think we will be here long as I should be able to find work soon.</p>
<p>George White</p> <p>Aged 15</p> <p>Orphan. I have no where else to go and I have not found a job yet.</p>	<p>George Carrington</p> <p>Aged 15</p> <p>I have come with my mother. I did have a job but it is not enough money to feed my mother and me.</p>
<p>Joseph Disney</p> <p>Aged 9</p> <p>Orphan. I have come to the Workhouse alone and I really do not want to be here.</p>	<p>John Fogg</p> <p>Aged 9</p> <p>I have come to the Workhouse with my two sisters and our father, who is ill. At least Ann and Sarah will be together in the small section.</p>

<p>Robert Cuckson</p> <p>Aged 11</p> <p>I was left by my parents as they could no longer look after me. I was told to come here</p>	<p>William Mountney</p> <p>Aged 11</p> <p>I am here with my father and grandfather. I do not think we will be in here long as my</p>
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<p>as I would get an education and three meals a day.</p>	<p>father will find a job soon. I hope so anyway.</p>
<p>Henry Stevenson</p> <p>Aged 11</p> <p>I am here with my father who had an accident on the farm. Hopefully he will get better soon and it will not be long till I can get a job to look after both of us.</p>	<p>Ellis George</p> <p>Aged 10</p> <p>Orphan and I have no where else to go. I am scared and I just want something to eat.</p>
<p>Sam Brooks</p> <p>Aged 10</p> <p>I am here with my grandfather and my mother. My mother is ill and my grandfather is too old to work.</p>	<p>William Scathewick</p> <p>Aged 9</p> <p>I am here with my grandparents as my parents died. I hope I see them and that I am not alone.</p>
<p>John Ancliffe</p> <p>Aged 9</p> <p>I am here with my sisters. Our parents both died a few days ago because they gave all their food to us.</p>	<p>Sam Greensmith</p> <p>Aged 9</p> <p>Orphan. I have no family left and I have walked for days. I am scared and I really do not want to be here.</p>
<p>George Holdham</p> <p>Aged 9</p> <p>I was abandoned by my parents as they could not afford to keep me. I was told to come here by the farmer who I asked for some bread.</p>	<p>Thomas Hopkin</p> <p>Aged 9</p> <p>I have come today with my parents and grandfather. My father lost his job and my grandfather is very ill.</p>