



10 ways to use www.objectlessons.org to teach and learn about the Victorians

There are roughly 29 Victorian objects on the website. These represent just a few of the many Victorian objects in the Artefacts Library. They are found in *Homes*, *Childhood*, *Health*, *Clothes* and *Work*.

- **Quiz:** In pairs, use the **search** facility to find the approx 59 Victorian objects and choose one. Research the object. Think up 5 quiz questions about it e.g. multi-choice, a crossword, true and false questions for another pair. See the **Mystery Object** on the homepage for ideas.
- **Glossary game:** Again in pairs, look at the glossary for the Victorian lamp under *Homes*. Now choose another object and highlight a word in the information that needs explaining. Write a real glossary definition for it and 2 false ones. Ask another pair to guess the real one.
- **Museum trip (before):** Choose an object from the website (use the **electronic white board**) and research it together.
http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/learning/features_facts/voh/Voh_kit/index.htm shows how far you can virtually handle an object. Discuss what you can gain by seeing this object in a museum and handling it e.g. detail, smell, texture, size, weight, design, authenticity. Order the object from the Artefacts Library and handle it. Take digital photos at the museum and create entries in the style of the website back in the classroom. **Museum trip (follow up):** Use the website to carry out further research on objects seen in the museum.
- **Drawing:** Look at objects on the Victorians *Homes* section and read about them. Draw a Victorian home with these objects in it. See the **Chinese dragon game** in *Cultures*. Make you own version by printing out an image and cutting it up into squares.
- **Research:** Print out an image and look at it carefully. Label it with different colours to show what you know, can guess at, or would like to know about the object. Then use the website to research the answers. Use the **sound** and **rotating image** function.
- **Website design:** Research other Victorians websites (overleaf) and design an interactive activity for the www.objectlessons.org website.
- **Museum game:** Give the children print outs of a selection of the Victorian objects and let them categorise them as if on a website e.g. to do with function, materials, aesthetic qualities. Then compare this website's categories. Discuss the differences.
- **Label writing:** Imagine you are a museum curator. Write a label for one of the objects using only 20 words. Include physical features (the look and feel), construction, function, value (for the owner, us, the museum). Read out label and others guess which object you are describing. Display the image and label in a **class museum**.
- **Past and present:** Print out the images on the Victorians *Childhood* page. Compare and contrast them with the modern equivalent. Discuss how these objects show changing attitudes to childcare. Try to create a **timeline** of children's toys similar to the **timeline of lighting** in the *Homes* section by using the **search** facility across the eras. Include a game for the future!

THE VICTORIANS: useful websites for KS1 & KS2

Informative and interactive:

Clicker History KS1: life of Florence Nightingale and George Stephenson with pictures at: <http://tlfe.org.uk/clicker/flashhistoryks1/florence.swf>

5-7yrs, Famous People: fun introduction to the life of Florence Nightingale at: www.bbc.co.uk/schools/famouspeople/

9-11yrs, Children in Victorian Britain: learning, games, good photos at: www.bbc.co.uk/schools/victorians/

7-11yrs, Walk Through Time: walk through Victorian streets, find Mary Seacole and Isambard Kingdom Brunel on the **timestrip** too at: www.bbc.co.uk/history/walk

You wouldn't want to be a polar explorer!: Story book about Ernest Shackleton based on book of the same name at: www.salariya.com/web_books/explorer/index.html

Victorian Walk: walk down a virtual Victorian street at <http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/English/Learning/Learningonline/features/18th/>

Victorians Cyberhunt: quiz takes you to a range of websites at: www.icteachers.co.uk/children/children_cyberhunts.htm

Show me...Victorians: links to the best of UK's museums and galleries for learning, games and activities <http://www.show.me.uk/topicpage/Victorians.html>

Good for research:

Harriet Tubman at: www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/aa/tubman

A selection of letters written by Florence Nightingale: read a scan of the letter Nightingale wrote from the Crimea at: <http://clendening.kumc.edu/dc/fn/>

History of the Monarchy: royal facts at: www.royal.gov.uk/output/Page5.asp

Ironbridge Gorge Museums Collections: discover the secrets of the construction of the famous iron bridge at: www.ironbridge.org.uk

Thinking things: comprehensive collection of useful pictures of Victorians at www.snaithprimary.eril.net/victoria.htm

Public Record Office – Learning Curve Gallery: Snapshots: great ideas for using original historical sources at: <http://www.learningcurve.gov.uk/index/snapshots.htm>

Osbourne House at: http://www.propascene.com/exhibithighlight/osborne_house.htm

Spartacus: online encyclopaedia at: www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/

Lesson plans and resources:

BBC schools webguide and www.bbc.co.uk/schools/victorians/teachers/index.shtml and www.primaryresources.co.uk/ and <http://www.historyonthenet.com/>

Cadbury Learning Zone: History: downloadable activity sheets to go with virtual village tour at: www.cadburylearningzone.co.uk

Curriculum online at: <http://www.qca.org.uk/>

SchoolHistory: good links at: www.schoolhistory.co.uk

Schools Victorians websites: See Nettlesworth Primary School's award winning example. Click on their Timetrail at : www.nettlesworth.durham.sch.uk