

# A Victorian Day

## Teacher's Notes

### 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.

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.

The 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. They will look at some of the toys they may have played with, and even see a cane in action!

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.

Please bring a printed class list to give to the Education Leader.

<b>GROUP A</b>		<b>GROUP B</b>	
10.00am	Drive coach to Ticket Box, where your Education Leader will meet you and assist with your payment	10.00am	Drive coach to Ticket Box, where your Education Leader will meet you and assist with your payment
10.15am	Escorted by staff to the Education Centre	10:15	Escorted by staff to the Education Centre for introduction
10:30	Workshop session	10:30	Free time
11:15	Castle Tour	12:00	Lunch
12:00	Lunch	12:30	Workshop session
12:30	Free time	13:15	Castle Tour
14:00	Depart	14:00	Depart



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### Background Information

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

Between the years 1860 – 1874 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 queen for 38 years, and a widow for 14 years. The Prime Minister 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.

### Workshop Session

During the workshop session the children will meet two members of staff from the Leeds Castle household who have been transported from the year 1875. They staff 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 how to sit and stand correctly using back boards and books! They will also undertake an exercise that was typical in schools of the time, such as dictation or spelling. They will also learn a little about work they may undertake on leaving school.

The children will learn how to address a Lord and Lady, before going to the Castle, to be introduced formally to a member of the household, and have a guided tour. To enable each child to be introduced, please remember to bring a class list with you.

After the tour, lunch can be taken in the Education Centre if the weather is inclement, on the terrace just outside, or taken up to the picnic area near the Play areas and maze.



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### Follow up ideas

#### 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 period.
- 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

- Get 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.

