

Victorian Childhood

- Key Stage 1 and 2
- Curriculum themes: History, Science
- Session length: 1.5 to 2 hours
- Session times: 10am – 11.45am or 12.30pm – 2.15pm



Discover what life was like for children in Victorian times in this hands-on workshop. Investigate household objects from the past, find out what kinds of jobs children had and how young they began working, and experience what it was like to go to a Victorian school.

We begin with a discussion on the lives of rich and poor children and how their lives were affected by the social changes of the Victorian period. This introduction can be adapted for class requirements, with attention given to the children who lived at Cusworth Hall and in Doncaster during the period.

Throughout the workshop, costumes can be worn by all including a long pinafore and mobcap and a waistcoat and cap – there's also an opportunity for a class photo in the photographic studio!

Stay for the day
enjoy lunch after
your workshop and
spend self-guided
time in the Great
Kitchen (worksheets
provided)



The class is then divided into groups to take turns at different activities, which last around 25 minutes depending on age, ability and numbers in the group:

- Washday or cleaning brass in the kitchen
- Hand-on artefacts activity with worksheet
- Experiencing a Victorian school – with slate-writing, abacus counting, exercising with dumbbells, and trying back straighteners

The session concludes with a summary of what we've learnt today.