

Victorian Richmond Family Activity Pack



This activity pack is based on the Family Workshops we run at the Museum of Richmond. The pack is designed to be read out by an adult to children. The activities can be enjoyed by children aged 5 to 11 with help from their adults. You can print the pack or read from a screen.

COMPLETING ENROLMENT AND FEEDBACK FORMS

Our Family workshops are funded by a grant from the London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames Adult Community Learning (ACL) Fund. Due to the Covid 19 crisis we are unable to run our Easter Family workshops in the museum and so we have made activity packs available online for all to enjoy. To receive any of our ACL funding for our Easter Family Workshops we will need those who have downloaded and used our activity packs to complete online Enrolment and Feedback forms and send completed signed copies to learning@museumofrichmond or post them to Museum of Richmond, Second Floor, Old Town Hall, Richmond, TW9 1TP. Please find the [link](#) to the enrolment and feedback forms. These completed forms are sent to LBRUT as evidence of participation and we will not receive any funding without them. We appreciate all your help and support during this difficult time and look forward to welcoming you back to the museum soon.

Please note that there are some essential items you will need to acquire in order to participate in some of the activities, purchase suggestions in brackets.

Gruel: Oatmeal/Porridge oats - page 2

Rag Rug: Hessian (*Baker Ross & eBay*) and fabric scraps (old clothes) - page 4-6

Cup and Ball: Paper/or other disposable cup, string and tin foil – page 7

Peg Doll: Wooden pegs (*Amazon*) - page 8-9

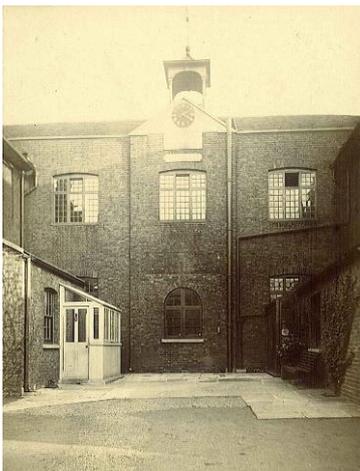
Before you begin on a big piece of paper share what you already know about the Victorians. You might want to make notes or draw some pictures.

Today you are going to find out about Victorian Life in Richmond. You will be learning about Victorian Workhouses, Homes and Toys.

The Museum of Richmond currently has a temporary exhibition called 'Queen's Road: 500 years of History' it tells the story of the Queen's Road, which is close to the Richmond Park Gate, and the people who lived there.

(For more information and an exhibition slideshow follow this link <https://bit.ly/QueensRoadExhibition>)

Richmond's Victorian Workhouse



The Victorian era was between 1837 to 1901, almost 200 years ago during the reign of Queen Victoria.

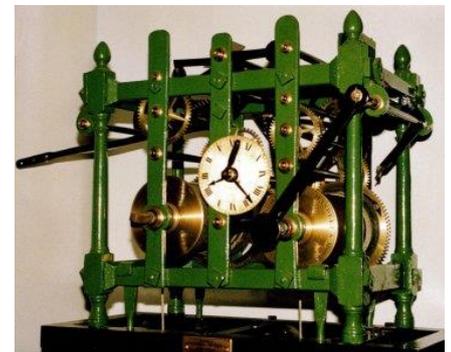
During the Victorian times, there were buildings in most large towns called Workhouses.

Richmond's workhouse was located on Grove Road near Pesthouse Common on Queen's Road. It housed a wide range of people from babies to the very old, who for one reason or another could not look after themselves.



Workhouses were not meant to be very nice places; conditions were deliberately bad so that only the most desperate families would ask to stay there. Families were separated on entry; the food was generally very poor and inmates (people who stayed there) were often expected to do exhausting work like picking oakum. This was when inmates were given pieces of old rope, which they had to untwist into many corkscrew strands. Imagine how sore and red their hands would have been! Find out more about Victorian Workhouses:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01f9xyl/clips>



Compared with many other workhouses Richmond's was well run and the inmates generally well treated. You can find the Richmond Workhouse Floor Plan and green clock works on display in the Museum of Richmond.



Much of the food in a Victorian Workhouse was very bland, such as gruel, famously served in the Charles Dicken's Story of Oliver Twist. Try and make your own gruel and see what it tastes like:

Simple Gruel Recipe:

Remember! **Always** wash your hands before preparing food.

Ingredients:

- 3 dessert spoonful's of oatmeal/porridge oats
- 1 pint of water
- a little salt

Equipment:

- Wooden Spoon
- Measuring jug
- Pan

Method:

1. Mix the oatmeal with a little cold water to make a paste
2. Put the rest of the water in a pan
3. Add the paste mixture and boil for 10 minutes
4. Add the salt
5. Serve in bowl or saucer

Victorian Homes & Rag Rugs:

In the Victorian home, they didn't have wall to wall carpets like we do today. In wealthier households, they would have large, professionally made rugs that would cover most of the floor. Poorer households would tend to have bare wooden floorboards, which when combined with not having central heating, could get cold under foot.

Rag rugs were an economical way of solving this problem. They were made from fabric scraps and hessian.



Hessian

Hessian was first exported from India in the early 1800s. It was traditionally used as backing for rugs and carpets. Hessian is often used to make sacks and bags to ship goods such as coffee beans.

Fabric was expensive and to waste it was unheard of. Rag Rugs were an excellent way of recycling clothes and sheets that were beyond repair and keeping your home cosy!



Proggers

A progger is the simple tool used for making rag rugs with a hessian back. Making your own progger is quite simple if you use a traditional "dolly peg". You will need to cut off one leg and sharpen the remaining leg to an even point which will need to be sand-papered to ensure the end is not too sharp. It is likely the poor would keep broken pegs for such a purpose.



How to make a Victorian Rag Rug:

Equipment:

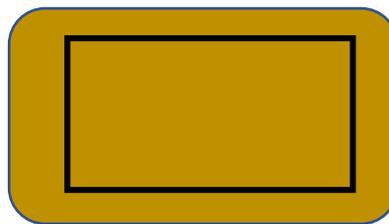
Progger (see above) —————→
Wooden Peg
Sandpaper (to sand your wooden peg, see above)
Needle and thread/wool
Hessian – or any other thick loose woven fabric
Coloured fabric – scrap clothes to cut up would be good for this
Scissors
Ruler
Chalk
Marker pens/ felt tip pen

Alternative to progger:
Thick Knitting Needle
Pencil

Instructions:

Step1. Measure and draw your outline

Decide how big you would like your rug to be, you could start by making a small one. Use an A4 piece of paper as a guide. Place your paper on the hessian, making sure to leave a border of about 6cm. Use a ruler to draw around your paper with chalk or pen.



Step 2: Sew a seam

You need this extra hessian border to make a seam to stop the rug from fraying. You can fold the edges over by 3cm and use a running stitch to sew it into place. Repeat this on all four edges.

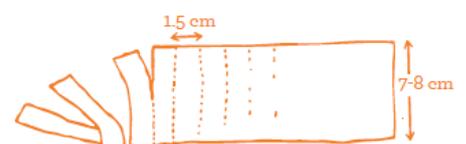


Step 3. Mark out your design (optional)

The rug is worked from the back, so mark out your design with the rough side of the hem facing up. Use chalk first to mark out the design, using a damp cloth if you make a mistake. Then go over with a marker pen for the final design to work to. Or, you can make up your pattern as you go.

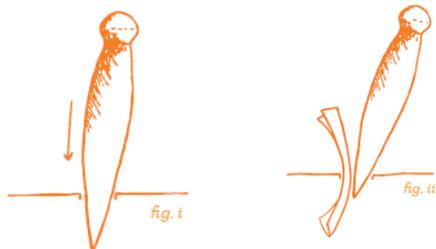
Step 4. Cut your fabric

Once you have prepared the hessian; you need to prepare the fabric scraps for the pile. Using sharp scissors cut clippings 7-8 cm long and 1.5cm wide. Lightweight materials can be cut up to 3cm wide and folded double.



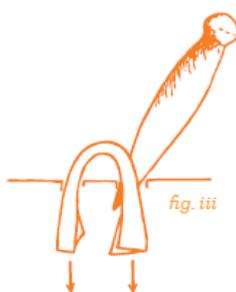
Step 5. Make a hole with progger

Make a hole with the pointy end of your progger, by pushing it between the weave of the hessian. Poke your fabric clipping halfway through with your progger. Keep your other hand underneath to catch it and pull it down to leave about 4cm poking out at the top.



Step 6: Make your second hole with progger

Make your second hole about 1cm away and poke the other end of the fabric clipping in it, then pull down using your hand underneath to make the two ends even.



Step 7: Repeat the process



Pick up your next clipping and repeat the process by proggng the second clipping through the same hole as the end of the first clipping. This gives a dense texture. If you are using thick material it may be necessary to create a new hole, close to the first one, to prog the next clipping through.



This is what the back should start to look like.



This is what the front should start to look like.



Step 8: Keep repeating the process

Keep going with your fabric clippings until you have completed your rag rug.

This is what the finished Rag Rug should look like.

Send us pictures of your finished rag rugs, we will share them on our social media!

learning@museumofrichmond.com

Enter our Victorian Rag Rug competition! Our Museum Staff will judge the best design. The winner will win a Museum of Richmond Victorian themed Goody Bag!

To enter: send a photograph of yourself making your rag rug and a photograph of yourself with your finished rag rug along with your name and address to learning@museumofrichmond.com
Competition closes 30th June 2020. Please note we can only accept competition entries accompanied by completed Enrolment and Feedback forms (more details on page 1 of this Activity Pack).

Victorian Parlour Games

Victorian children did not have television or computer games like we do today, in fact they didn't even have electricity! For wealthier children who lived in houses with a nice living room, like these Victorian Dutch style houses on Queen's Road, parlour games were very popular. Parlour is another name for a living room. You can try some of these games at home:



Kim's Game (2 or more players)

A player collects lots of different small objects from around the home (spoons, scissors, toy, hairband) and places them on a tray. The other players then get to look at the tray for 30 seconds. The tray is then covered up or removed. The other players write down all the objects they can remember. The winner is the player who remembers the most!

Pass the Slipper (4 or more players)

A player stands in the centre of a circle formed by the other players. The player must close their eyes and the slipper (or other small object) is passed from player to player behind their backs. When the person in the middle opens their eyes, the passing stops. The player must guess who has the slipper and if guessed correctly, they swap.

Look about (3 or more players)

The first player finds a tiny object in the room; they show it to the other players and then those players leave the room while the first player hides it. The other players return to the room and look for the object. When they see it, they sit down, without making it known where they have seen it. The last player to sit down loses.

You can find more Victorian Parlour games here:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/victorianchristmas/activity/parlour-games.shtml>

Victorian Cup and Ball

Children from poorer families would have made their own toys and played with them outside on the streets. Many Victorian children had to work, and some would have saved up to buy marbles or other cheap wooden toys. A popular Victorian toy was the wooden Cup and Ball. This is a game of skill and concentration. The game is simple, you need to swing the cup to get the ball to land inside the cup. You can make your own using household materials:



How to make a cup and ball:

Equipment:

A paper cup (or other disposable cup)
Sticky tac (e.g. Blue tac, or plasticine)
Sticky tape (Sellotape)
Sharp pencil
Tin foil
String
Felt tips



Instructions:



Step 1: Decorate your cup.

Use felt tips to make patterns on the outside of your cup or add stickers if you have them.

Step 2: Make a hole in the bottom of your cup.

Put a ball of sticky tac onto the bottom of your cup. Gently pierce a hole with a sharp pencil from the inside of the cup.

Step 3: Cut string

Cut a length of string about 50 cm long

Step 4: Tape the string

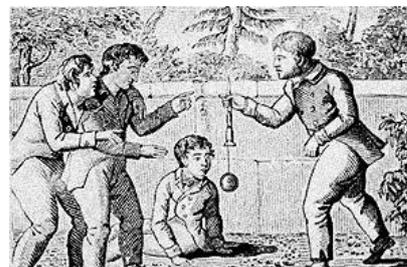
Feed some of your string through the hole in the bottom of your cup and tape it down from the inside.

Step 5: Make the ball

Lay about 10cm of the long end of the string onto a sheet of tin foil and tape to it down. Scrunch up the tinfoil tightly around the string to make a ball. (Make sure the ball is small enough to fit inside the cup).

Step 6: Play cup and ball

Swing the cup to catch the ball. How many times can you catch it in a row? Challenge an adult!



Victorian Peg Dolls



Here are three old dolls from the Museum of Richmond's collection.

Can you guess what they are made of?

One of them is on display in our Victorian Bay in the Museum today.

Do you know which one?

*Answers: Wooden with metal pins in the joints. Rag Doll, fabric and wool, Porcelain (ceramic)
Wooden doll is in the Victorian Bay*

Poor Victorian children could not afford fancy porcelain (china/ceramic) hand painted dolls and would use what materials they could find to make their own. There were lots of wooden pegs available as people had to hand wash their clothes and hang them out to dry. There were no washing machines or tumble dryers! Wooden pegs or Dolly pegs as they are also known, were great for making dolls. Scrap fabric would have been collected from factory floors or even at home where people made their own clothes.

How to make a peg doll

Equipment:

Dolly pegs (Wooden pegs)

Fabric

Craft glue or pva glue

Ball of wool, cotton wool or string (for hair)

Pencil or Felt tip (Sharpie)

Paints



Step 1: Design your peg doll

It is always a good idea to make a design before you start making something new. Draw a picture of what you would like your peg doll to look like in the end. Will they be a superhero or a Victorian maid, think about what materials you have available? Be creative!

Step 2: Paint the skin tone (optional)

You can start by painting the peg a skin tone, look for browns and beige coloured paints. Mix colours together to make different skin tones. Then leave your doll to dry.

Step 3: Draw in the face details

Add in little details for the face with pen (Sharpie) or even a sharp pencil.

Step 4: Make some arms (optional)

You can use pipe cleaners for arms. Thread them through the legs and wrap them around the middle or wrap them around the neck and add a scarf.

You could also glue them on from the back.



Step 3: Make clothes

You can wrap fabric around to make a dress, top, skirt and trousers. You can tie your fabric around the back so it is tight, or you may need to sew them together or glue them on. Think about sleeves or leaving holes for the arms if you have them. If trousers are tricky why not paint the wooden legs trouser coloured instead and add some string or fabric for a belt.



Step 4: Add the hair

Use string or wool to glue on the hair. Will they have long hair or short hair? You could use cotton wool for white hair.

Step 5: Add a hat (optional)

Make a hat from a small piece of fabric or even glue on a pom-pom.

Look outside! You may find a small feather, flower or leaf that you could attach to the dolls hat or hair.



Step 6: Make some more

Now you have your first peg doll, make it some friends.

Extension Activity: Make a Shoe Friend



Some children in the past even made dolls from old shoes. This shoe doll was made in East London in 1905! She is 115 years old! The heel has been used to make her face. Rags used for her clothes including a little apron. If you have spare old shoes at home, why not recycle them and make a Shoe Friend! When you have finished write instructions to explain to someone else how to make a Shoe Friend.

Congratulations! You have completed the Museum of Richmond's Victorian Activity Pack! Now go back to your big piece of paper and write down all the new things you now know.

Please share your learning with us @museumofrichmond or send to

learning@museumofrichmond.com

Don't forget to enter our Rag Rug competition! (details on page 6)

Follow up activities:

Design and make Richmond's Workhouse building out of an old cardboard shoe box.

Find out how to make more Victorian toys

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/handsonhistory/victorians.shtml>

Research what life was like for Victorian children and write a diary entry as if you were a Victorian child <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/story-of-england/victorian/daily-life/>