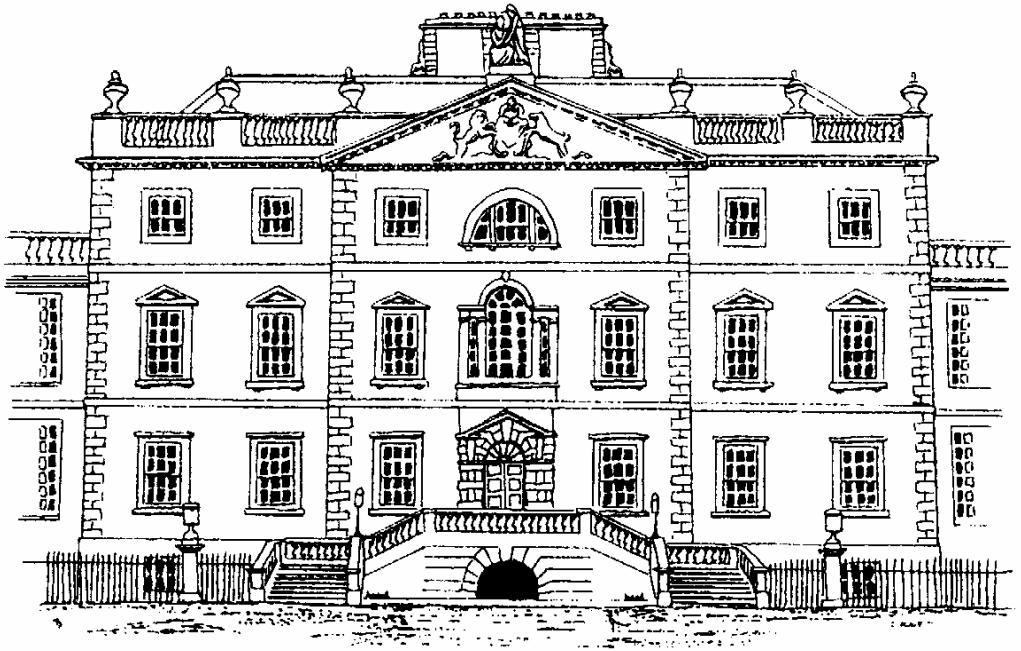




THE NATIONAL TRUST

Learning

# Wimpole Hall



## Directed Activities

## Choose from...

- **Victorian Living History**

Children are in costume and take on the roles of local villagers looking for work. Activities include writing with dip pens, napkin folding, serving at a table, bed making, sewing and a visit to the dry store to listen to our Victorian housekeeper talking about her work.

### Morning Living History

- Spend a morning in the basement rooms of Wimpole Hall learning about life as a Victorian servant and meet the Lady of the house.

### Full Day Living History

- Spend the morning in the basement rooms learning about life as a Victorian servant preparing for a Royal visit, followed by an afternoon tour of the 'upstairs' of Wimpole Hall.

- **Victorian Pick and Mix Session**

A choice of sessions designed to help children understand the life of servants at Wimpole in the 1840's. Choose from:

- Handling domestic artefacts
- Open a Victorian toy box
- The Laundry maids day
- Writing with dip pens

- **Victorian Costume Session**

By trying on costumes children learn about life in a country house during the 1840's.

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### **Loan basket of Victorian Replica Toys**

- A loan basket of replica Victorian toys is available for schools who have undertaken directed activities to borrow, there is no charge. Contact the Education Office for details.

### **To help you plan your visit**

- All Education visits, directed or self directed **must** be booked in advance, please contact the Education Office on **01223 206004**
- If you wish to visit the Hall or Home Farm in the afternoon, please book this in advance with the Education Officer. Please note that separate admission charges apply. This visit will be self-directed.
- No charge for adults accompanying children for directed activities.
- Property admission – 1 adult admitted free with every 5 children
- Free teacher preliminary visits welcomed.
- Family trail for the Hall, Home Farm and Gardens are available. These are suitable for use by a group of children working with an accompanying adult.

For further information please contact the Education Office:

**Tel:** 01223 206004

**Fax:** 01223 207838

**Email:** education.wimpole@nationaltrust.org.uk

# **Victorian Living History**

## **Curriculum Links -**

- **History:**
  - The Victorians
  - Life in a country house
  - Social History

## **Practical details –**

- Suitable for KS2
- Group size – 1 class with accompanying adults (minimum 25 children, maximum 35 children)
- The morning session starts at 10:00am and finishes at 12:10pm
- The full day session starts at 10:00am and finishes at 1:45pm
- The pupils and accompanying adults will come in costume and in role as local villagers who have heard that more staff are needed at Wimpole to prepare for the visit of Queen Victorian and Prince Albert.
- The sessions are led by members of the Wimpole Education team, in costume, who take on the roles of senior members of the household staff.
- A full teacher's pack is provided on request.
- A preliminary visit to meet the Education Officer is recommended.

## **How the session runs –**

- In 1843 Queen Victoria and Prince Albert visited Wimpole as guests of Lord and Lady Hardwicke. The preparations for this visit meant that extra servants were needed.
- Your class will come in costume and in role as local villagers who have heard that more staff are needed.
- You will be met at the Stable Block by 'Victorian servants' and brought up to the house.
- After being welcomed in the Chapel by the Butler and Housekeeper you will spend the morning being taught your duties as Victorian servants in the basement rooms of the Hall.
- Activities include writing with dip pens, a visit to the Housekeepers Dry Store, napkin folding and bed making.
- **Morning only** sessions end with a return to the Chapel where Lady Hardwicke will hand out certificates to everyone. Many schools make an afternoon booking to visit the Hall. Although this is self directed we can provide worksheets for you to photocopy prior to your visit.
- **Full day** sessions continue with lunch in the Servants' hall - we encourage schools to bring a Victorian packed lunch. During the afternoon the children are taken on tours of the Hall.

## **Charge:**

Morning Living History – EGM £4.00 / child  
NEGM £5.00 / child

Full Day Living History - EGM £7.00 / child  
NEGM £8.00 / child

# **Victorian Activities – Pick and Mix**

## **Curriculum Links -**

- **History:**
  - The Victorians
  - Social History
  - Life in a Country House
  - Toys

## **Practical details -**

- Suitable for KS 1 & 2
- The following activities take place in the basement rooms of the Hall during the morning, prior to the house opening to the public.
- Sessions can be tailored to suit your needs, just choose your activities from the following 4 activities - Unpacking Victorian artefacts, The Laundry maid's day, Writing with dip pens, Victorian toy box. Further details are given below for each of these activities.
- The activities are charged / ½ hour / child.
- Group sizes for each activity are approximately 15 children plus accompanying adults. A maximum of 3 activities may be chosen.
- The minimum size for a group is 15 and the maximum is 50
- Education staff will meet you in the Stable Block and walk you up to the Hall for the start of your session.

### **1. Unpack our basket of Victorian artefacts.**

- This activity takes place in the Servants' Hall.
- The children are told that they are going to find out about life in a house such as Wimpole by looking at some of the things that would have been used by the people who lived and worked here.
- The artefacts are wrapped in calico bags and the children work in pairs to unwrap the artefacts. As each one is unwrapped it is discussed – materials it is made from, function etc. It quickly becomes apparent to the children that running a large house required a lot of hard physical labour before the invention of electricity!
- The materials are commented on particularly the absence of plastic and the use of ivory.

### **2. The Laundry maid's day**

- The children find out about the process of washing clothes before the introduction of electricity and the invention of washing machines using our laundry artefacts.
- The children are asked how clothes are washed now – hot water from the tap, washing powders, washing machines and easy care fabrics are all mentioned.
- The children are then shown a wash tub and wooden washboard. These are demonstrated using a bar of carbollic soap! The children are then all able to have a go.

- The dolly tub has water in it and the children can put the washing into it and then have a go with the dolly. They enjoy these activities but do begin to realise that doing all the washing this way would have been very hard work and time consuming.
- The use of washing tongs, dolly pegs, and irons is discussed and the children may handle these. The mangle is shown but not used for reasons of safety – the children are told that one model was sold under the trade name ‘little nipper’!

### **3. Writing with dip pens**

- This activity takes place in the Butler’s pantry.
- The importance of being able to sign your name when you came to work as a servant at Wimpole is explained – you were expected to sign your name in the wages book. The Butler would have handed out wages at the end of the week. His other duties are also described briefly.
- Blotting paper, pen wipers, alphabet sheets, menu sheets, dip pens and ink are shown. (The ink that we use is washable blue to avoid the risk of permanent stains).
- The children write their names using dip pens.
- When they are satisfied with their efforts they then sign a certificate – ‘a replica reference sheet’. This is taken back to school with them.
- They are shown a menu for a dinner and told that these also would have been written by hand (no photocopies!). Some may wish to try their hand at these as well. We also have quill pens and the children may try these for comparison.

### **4. Victorian Toy box**

- The session starts with a comparison of the life of an ordinary Victorian child with children today. This includes a discussion of whether they would have had many toys and what else they might have been doing.
- A pedlar’s basket full of Victorian toys is unpacked and the toys handed out in bags to each pair of children. In turn each pair unwrap their toy and it is discussed in relation to what it is and what it is made from.
- It soon becomes apparent that the toys are made of natural materials with no plastic or electrical components.
- With older groups of children the health and safety aspects of some of the antique toys can also be discussed.
- After the antique toys have been examined and discussed, a basket of replica Victorian toys is handed out and everybody has a chance to examine and play with the toys.

#### **Charge:**

EGM £1.25 / child / ½ hour session

NEGM £1.50 / child / ½ hour session

# **Victorian Costume Session**

## **Curriculum Links -**

- **History:**
  - The Victorians
  - Social History
  - Life in a Country House
  - Rich and Poor

## **Practical details -**

- Suitable for KS 1 & 2
- This session lasts one hour and is suitable for one class (maximum 30 children).
- The session takes place in the Saloon in Wimpole Hall.
- You will be met in the Stable Block by a member of the Education department and brought up to the Hall for your session

## **How the session runs -**

- By trying on costumes and handling artefacts your class can discover what life was like in a country house during the 1840s.
- We have 7 complete child sized replica costumes - the scullery maid, gardeners' boy, cook, the housekeeper, a footman, her Ladyship and his Lordship.
- When the session has been introduced these children will leave the room briefly with some of your accompanying adults and a member of Wimpole's Education team. They will put on the Victorian underclothes (which are very modest) over their own underclothes before returning to the costume session.
- During this time the rest of the class will be able to dress up in mobcaps and aprons (girls) and waistcoats and neckerchiefs (boys).
- The session will continue with the main characters being dressed in their top clothes.
- We will ask for volunteers from the rest of the class to assist us in this and would be grateful if you would be prepared to choose the children when necessary.
- The children will find out what life would have been like in a large country house for servants and wealthy landowners.
- At the end of the session the children who have taken on the main roles are taken into the next room to look in the mirror before getting changed.

## **Charge:**

EGM £2.50 / child / 1 hour session.

NEGM £3.00 / child / 1 hour session