

# Victorians Workshop



At Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich  
For KS2 Pupils

## Notes for Teachers

Please read this pack thoroughly **before** your visit and share with any adults who will accompany you.

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# 1. Introduction

## Overview

The Victorians Workshop for KS2 is a fabulous interactive learning experience for your pupils to understand what life was like in a Victorian household, at a time when the wealthy Fonnereau family lived here at Christchurch Mansion.

Your pupils will bring the Mansion to life through dressing up, role-play, object handling, practical tasks and games. This is a cross-curricular and thought-provoking day, where pupils are encouraged to compare life in the 1800s with their own lives today.

## Aims

- Make connections between life as a Victorian and life today.
- Explore history within a local context.
- Become immersed in a specific historical period during the Victorian era through dressing up and role-play.
- Record observations and make measurements associated with making butter, and calculate the mass of butter made from a mass of cream.
- Apply knowledge of states of matter and physical changes to describe the process of making butter.
- Discuss thoughts to generate new ideas.
- Write for a purpose, changing the style needed for factual content, descriptions, and creative writing.
- Observe and sketch historical items and create self-portraits in a Victorian style.
- Compare the materials used to make historical and modern-day items, such as kitchenware and toys.



## Sample timetable

| Time        | Activity Name                                                                                                                                                             | Led by                                                               | Curriculum Focus                                    | Activity Type                                                                     | Written activity |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 10.00-10.15 | Arrival, organising groups, lunches, etc                                                                                                                                  | Museum staff                                                         |                                                     |                                                                                   |                  |
| 10.15-10.30 | Welcome to the mansion and dressing up                                                                                                                                    | Museum staff                                                         | History                                             | Listening, role-play.                                                             |                  |
| 10.30-10.45 | Introduction to the Mansion and the Fonnereau family.<br>Begin rotation of activities in smaller groups. Timings and order will vary.<br>Each session is 45 minutes long. |                                                                      |                                                     |                                                                                   |                  |
| 10.45-11.30 | <b>Butter Making and Kitchen Treasures</b><br>Please check that your pupils do not have <u>allergies to butter or milk</u> <u>contact</u> before booking.                 | Museum staff                                                         | History, Science Design & Technology                | Practical skills, role-play, writing, measuring, investigating, drawing.          | ✓                |
| 11.30-12.15 | <b>Washing and Household Chores</b>                                                                                                                                       | Museum staff introduction, then <b>partially led by school staff</b> | History                                             | Role-play, object handling.                                                       | ✓                |
| 12.15-13.00 | Lunch and parlour games                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                      |                                                     |                                                                                   |                  |
| 13.00-13.45 | <b>Department and Manners, Portraits and Playroom Activities</b>                                                                                                          | <b>Fully led by school staff (instructions are provided)</b>         | History, Art & Design, Design & Technology, English | Practical skills, games, drawing, writing, observing, comparing, object handling. | ✓                |
| 13.45-14.00 | <b>Sum up and pack away ready to depart</b>                                                                                                                               | Museum staff and school staff                                        |                                                     |                                                                                   |                  |

## 2. Curriculum Links

### History

- Understand historical concepts such as continuity and change, difference and significance.
- Make connections, draw contrasts, and analyse trends.
- Gain historical perspective by placing knowledge into different contexts.
- Note connections, contrasts and trends over time and develop the appropriate use of historical terms.
- Address historically valid questions about change, cause, similarity and difference, and significance.
- Explore a local history study.
- Explore an aspect of history or a site dating from a period beyond 1066 that is significant in the locality.

### English

- Retrieve, record and present information from non-fiction.
- Writing for a purpose, selecting appropriate vocabulary and grammar.
- Making decisions about the form the writing should take.
- Thinking aloud to generate ideas.

### Science

- Setting up simple practical enquiries.
- Making systematic and careful observations and taking accurate measurements using standard units.
- Gathering and recording data to help answer questions.
- Recording findings using simple scientific language and tables.
- Reporting on findings from enquiries, including oral and written explanations.
- Using results to draw simple conclusions, make predictions for new values, suggest improvements and raise further questions.
- Identifying differences, similarities or changes related to simple scientific ideas and processes.
- Using straightforward scientific evidence to answer questions or to support their findings.
- Compare materials according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases.
- Observe that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled.
- Use knowledge of solids, liquids and gases to decide how mixtures might be separated.



## Art & Design

- Record observations and use them to review and revisit ideas.

## Design & Technology

- Investigate and analyse a range of existing products.
- Understand how key events and individuals in design and technology have helped shape the world.
- Cooking and nutrition - know where and how a variety of ingredients are grown, reared, caught and processed.

## 3. Group Information

### Group size

Our workshops are charged for a minimum of 20 pupils and a maximum of 60 pupils.

If you have fewer than 20 pupils, you can still come along but note that you **will be charged for 20 pupils**.

### Working groups for the day

60 pupils - please split into three groups (Red, Blue and Green)

30 pupils - please split into two groups (Red and Blue).

20 pupils or fewer - to remain in one group.

### Required ratio

1 adult: 10 pupils (at least one adult must be with each group at all times)

### Lunch

Please split your group of 60 into two lunch groups—upstairs and downstairs.

Groups of 30 or fewer can remain in one group.

Lunch is 45 minutes. Feel free to go outside in the park in fine weather. We have instructions for parlour games to keep you busy if needed.

### Rules

- Please take care of any objects you handle and be aware of fragile things around you.
- Please lead by example and ensure that any rules specified by your Museum Assistant are adhered to (such as walking calmly, not sitting on exhibits, and listening carefully), along with any specific safety advice.
- Some of the sessions will be led by your school staff, so consideration of conduct in these situations is particularly important.



Christchurch Mansion

## 4. Before your visit

### Preparation activities

Here are some quick links that you might wish to look at before you come to Christchurch Mansion.

As a class go to our website to see the photograph of the mansion:

<https://ipswich.cimuseums.org.uk/visit/christchurch-mansion/>



Here is a link (also on the museum home page) to download the Bloomberg Connects Digital Guide. Through this you can show your class all sorts of images of the museum, some objects, and the people who lived here.



Explore the timeline to identify who lived here at Christchurch Mansion during the reign of Queen Victoria:

<https://ipswich.cimuseums.org.uk/visit/christchurch-mansion/history/>



Explore a general timeline of events within the Victorian era:

<https://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/victorians/timeline.htm>



Find out information about what it was like for children living in Victorian Britain:

[www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/victorians/children/index.htm](http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/victorians/children/index.htm)



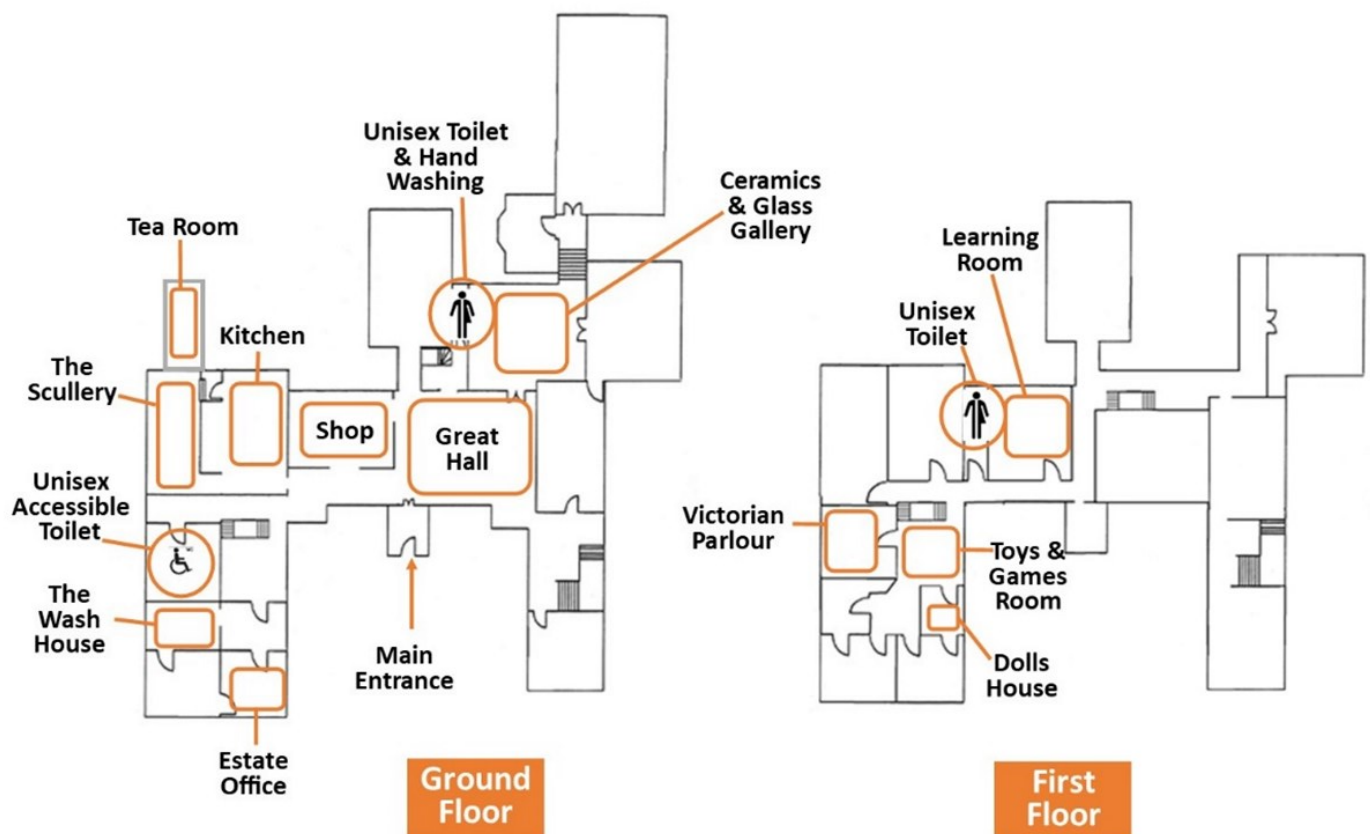
Christchurch Mansion

## What to bring

- **Your pupils need only bring a small lunch bag**—we supply everything else—activity booklets, clipboards, pencils, erasers, paper etc. **We do not have room for rucksacks and school bags to be stored.**
- We provide simple costumes such as aprons and hats for your pupils to dress up in however, they are most welcome to arrive in Victorian dress if they have some costume items themselves.
- There will be fabulous photo opportunities, so bring your camera (phone or iPad) to capture the day and to share with your school community.

## 5. Facilities and access

### Site map: Locations used in the Victorians workshop



Christchurch Mansion

## Shop

We have a small shop full of lovey items that adult school staff are welcome to browse at any time.

Please let us know in advance if you are planning on allowing your pupils to buy items as we can bring you a little pop-up-shop with some child-friendly, pocket money priced items for easy access.

## Tea room

Our tea room is just through the scullery, off the kitchen. Adult school staff are welcome to buy items from there, but we ask that any drinks brought back through to the museum have a lid, so please ask for a takeaway cup when ordering.

## Toilets

Downstairs we have one fully accessible toilet and another toilet with a few steps up to it. This second toilet has separate facilities for handwashing.

Upstairs there is also one toilet.

## Coach drop-off

There is an area right outside the main gate to the park where the Mansion is located for a coach to drop you off.

Please tell your driver our address and postcode:

Christchurch Mansion  
Soane Street  
Ipswich  
IP4 2BE

## Further contact details

**Phone** Christchurch Mansion: 01473 433554

**Email** us at: [museums@ipswich.gov.uk](mailto:museums@ipswich.gov.uk)



Christchurch Mansion

## Accessibility

Christchurch mansion is a listed Tudor building and so has some uneven floors and small staircases, with no lift access to upstairs areas.

If you have any particular needs or requirements, please contact us in advance so that we can advise you further. For example, we may be able to change the programme locations to accommodate anyone unable to access the first floor.

Please see our website for more information regarding accessibility, including (near to the bottom of the page) a really useful visual story film:

<https://ipswich.cimuseums.org.uk/christchurchmansionaccess/>



## Risk assessment

Please download our general risk assessment for schools at Christchurch Mansion from our main website at the time of booking:

<https://ipswich.cimuseums.org.uk/learn/museum-sessions/victorians>



***Note: Please check that your pupils do not have allergies to contact with butter, milk or cream. No pupils will be eating the butter, but they will be touching it. Please make sure that you carry out your own risk assessment for this before booking.***

Your Museum Assistants on the day will provide you with any additional health and safety advice upon arrival and before each activity.



Christchurch Mansion

## 6. After your visit

### Homework activity

In the Victorians Workshop Pupil Activity Booklet, you will see that there is a recommended task to get friends and family members involved at home.

Pupils might want to do this themselves, or you could set this as a formal homework.

### Downloadable activities

There are a number of Victorian-themed activities in the learning area of our website. These are free to download. For example, a great activity to do back at school would be for pupils to create their own museum—see the Museum of Me downloadable.

### Creative Writing

If you would like an additional follow-up task based on the Victorians, how about some creative writing:

**Imagine that you are one of the residents of Christchurch Mansion back in Victorian times.**

**Write a diary entry for a typical day in your life there.**

- ♦ Are you Mr or Mrs Fonnereau? Are you a cook, a butler, a maid or a child?
- ♦ What other people can you remember lived in the Mansion?
- ♦ When do you get up in the morning? When do you go to bed at night?
- ♦ What activities do you do in the day? Who do you meet and talk to?
- ♦ What do you see/smell/hear? How do you feel?

Use lots of descriptions so that your readers can get a real sense of what your life is like.

**We hope that you and your pupils have a fantastic learning experience with us and that you will choose to revisit us in the future.**

*Christchurch Mansion is free to enter and is open from 10am Tuesday-Sunday.*

*Do come and explore with your own family. Also, look out for special events, festivals and activities throughout the year and during the school holidays.*



Christchurch Mansion

[www.cimuseums.org.uk](http://www.cimuseums.org.uk)