

Victorian Washday

Abbey Pumping Station

Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 curriculum links: History, Language and Literacy

Cross curricular links: PSHE

1. Session Description

Our hands-on session will explore how people used to do the washing in Victorian times. 'The Victorian Washday' session is based at Abbey Pumping Station and uses real objects and costume to help pupils discover what life was like in Victorian times.

2. Session Length

90 minutes (1.5 hours)

3. Session Structure and Breakdown of Timings

Time	Activity	Length of activity
0-5 minutes	Introduction	5 minutes
5-45 minutes	(Group A) Washday - outside or in 'Mrs Simpson's back yard' (gallery display) Carpet beating outside or demonstrate ironing inside (Group B) Divide into 3 groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clothing• Beam Engine House Trail• Dress the Victorian Lady	40 minutes
45-85 minutes	Groups A and B swap over	40 minutes
85-90 minutes	Conclusion	5 minutes

4. Learning Outcomes

- Discuss how washing and cleaning was done before electricity was invented.
- Find out about the past from a range of sources.
- Improve enquiry and investigation skills.
- Understand the purpose of museums and their collections.

5. Curriculum Links

History

- Know where people and events fit in within a chronological framework
- Understand some of the ways we find out about the past
- Interpreting the past from resources

Language and Literacy

- Use discussion to learn
- Listen and respond appropriately to adults and their peers
- Ask relevant questions to extend understanding and knowledge
- Participate in discussions, presentations, performances, roleplay, improvisations and debates

PSHE

- Relationships and social hierarchies

7. Staffing requirements

Museum facilitator led plus at least 3 accompanying adults from the school.

8. Room requirements

Learning Room, Beam Engine House and the galleries at Abbey Pumping Station.

9. Pre-visit and Post-visit activities

Cross curricular links:

- **History:** Interpret the past from resources
- **Language and literacy:** write clearly, accurately, and coherently; handwriting; writing narratives; be competent in speaking and listening, make formal presentations

Pre-visit activities

- 1). Research how washing was done in the past.
- 2). Look at pictures of Victorian houses and household objects. Compare the objects to modern day equivalents.

Post visit activities

- 1). Discuss the visit to the visit to Abbey Pumping Station. Imagine living during Victorian times and discuss the hard work involved in washing clothes in Victorian times.
- 2). Discuss the differences in social classes and hierarchies during Victorian times.

