



ENGLISH HERITAGE
EDUCATION

KS3

ACTIVITY TRAIL

Osborne



This resource has been designed to help teachers plan a visit to Osborne, which provides essential insight into the private lives of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. Use this pack before and during your visit to help students get the most out of the Activity Trail.

INCLUDED

- Teachers' Guide
- Teachers' Answer Sheet
- Student Activity Trail

Get in touch with our Education Booking Team:

☎ 0370 333 0606

✉ bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk

➔ <https://bookings.english-heritage.org.uk/education/>

Don't forget to download our **Hazard Information Sheets** and **Discovery Visit Risk Assessments** to help with planning:

- **Waiting on Hand and Foot!**
- **The Adventures of a Victorian Explorer**
- **Story Mat**

Share your visit with us @EHEducation

Step into England's story

TEACHERS' GUIDE

LEARNING OVERVIEW

Curriculum Links

- History
- Geography
- English
- Art

Learning Objectives

WHAT

Observe the features of the rooms at Osborne and understand how they were used by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert.

HOW

By exploring Osborne and applying skills of enquiry, observation and imagination.

OUTCOME

Students draw supported conclusions about Queen Victoria and Prince Albert's lives at Osborne.

Time to complete

Approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes

BEFORE YOUR VISIT

PRIOR LEARNING

We recommend you do the following before you visit:

- Make sure students are familiar with who Queen Victoria and Prince Albert were.
- Check that students know key words such as: government, monarch, minister, council, architecture and empire.
- Check students' chronological understanding and remind them where the Victorian period features on a timeline.

PRE- AND POST-VISIT ACTIVITIES

In the pre-visit activity, students will explore the idea that Osborne was a royal retreat, where Queen Victoria raised a family and ruled an empire. Students can design their own royal residence and then compare their drawings with Victoria and Albert's home when they arrive.

We've also suggested some post-visit activities at the end of the trail.

We'd love to see any work your students create after their visit.

Tweet us [@EHEducation](https://twitter.com/EHEducation) or post/email it to us and we'll display it in the education room at Osborne.

PREPARATION AND RESOURCES

You will find the KS3 Activity Trail at the back of this pack. Please print it and complete the pre-visit activity with your class before visiting the site.

In order to create an A5 booklet, you'll need to do the following in your print settings:

1. Select size A4 and choose the landscape orientation.
2. Select a page range of 5–12 (to avoid printing multiple teachers' sheets).
3. Select 'Print on both sides of the paper' and 'Flip on short edge'.
4. Arrange the printed sheets in page order and fold into a booklet.

TEACHERS' GUIDE

LEARNING OVERVIEW

BEFORE YOUR VISIT (continued)

HELPFUL HINTS

The Activity Trail provides suggestions of things to find, points to discuss and questions to answer, with space to draw and write. The answers to the questions are provided in the Teachers' Answer Sheet on the next page.

To help us look after the building, students are allowed to use only pencils (not pens) inside the house. Please ask students to bring a pencil to write with. If you have clipboards at school, we recommend bringing these to encourage students not to lean on surfaces in the rooms.


ACCESSIBILITY

Please note that the Table-deckers' Rooms and Nursery are only accessible by stairs. However, wheelchair users can still enjoy the Activity Trail as most of the rooms are accessible by lift. The order of the activities will be slightly different and our stewards will be on hand to help with the amended route.

For your reference, the activity order will be:

- **Activity 1** – Grand Corridor. Then take the lift to the first floor
- **Activity 7** – Prince Albert's Bathroom, and Dressing and Writing Room
- **Activity 8** – Queen Victoria's Sitting Room
- **Activity 9** – Queen Victoria's Dressing Room and Bedroom. Then take the lift back down to the ground floor
- **Activity 2** – Council Room and Audience Room
- **Activity 4** – Dining Room
- **Activity 5** – Drawing Room and Billiard Room
- **Activity 10** – Durbar Corridor and Durbar Room

CONTACT DETAILS

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TEACHERS' ANSWER SHEET

ACTIVITY 1

ON-SITE
ACTIVITY

Q: Whose statue did the ministers see opposite them when they entered the house?

A: Queen Victoria's. This statue was made by John Gibson and shows Queen Victoria in Roman costume. The Queen gave it to Albert for his birthday in 1849.

ACTIVITY 3

ON-SITE
ACTIVITY

Q: What was the large round wooden object in the middle of the table used for?

A: Sharpening knives.

ACTIVITY 4

ON-SITE
ACTIVITY

Q: What message do you think Queen Victoria wanted to convey to people who looked at this painting?

A: The royal family are relaxed in this painting. The three children on the right are clambering on the Queen's robe. Queen Victoria has her arm around her eldest son and heir, Prince Edward. The royal couple are sitting comfortably and Albert's hand is pointing to, perhaps stroking, Victoria's. One interpretation is that this painting was created to portray Queen Victoria as not just a powerful monarch, but also a moral monarch and someone people could relate to.

ACTIVITY 5

ON-SITE
ACTIVITY

Q: What type of stone are the plaster columns painted to look like?

A: Marble.

ACTIVITY 7

ON-SITE
ACTIVITY

Q: Who painted the pictures of the royal children hanging above the harmonium (musical instrument)?

A: Queen Victoria.

ACTIVITY 8

ON-SITE
ACTIVITY

Q: Which desk belonged to Queen Victoria?

A: The one on the left. You can tell because the dispatch boxes are closest to it. Plus, there are no bell pulls on Prince Albert's desk because the Queen had them removed after he died.

WELL DONE!

Congratulations on completing the trail.

We hope you've enjoyed being Queen Victoria's guests of honour at Osborne.

To continue your journey at Osborne, why not explore the gardens – including Swiss Cottage – and enjoy a visit to the beach?

WHAT NEXT?

Back at school, you could:

- Write a letter to English Heritage about your visit to Osborne
 - Create a piece of art or write a poem inspired by your trip
- Film a short documentary or create a comic strip about Osborne
- Share photos of your visit with us on Twitter **@EHEducation**

Step into England's story



NAME:

CLASS:

SCHOOL:

DESIGN YOUR OWN ROYAL HOME

Osborne was the palatial seaside home of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, who used it as an escape from the pressures of royal life in London and Windsor. From Osborne, the Queen raised a family and ruled an empire.



The Andromeda fountain and clock tower at Osborne, seen from the Pavillion terrace.

The house and gardens were designed by Prince Albert. You will get to see some of the furniture and decorations he and Queen Victoria chose when you visit.

A **Imagine** you are Prince Albert, in charge of designing a royal home. What would you choose to have in your home? There is no limit to the amount of money you can spend.

Write your wish list here:

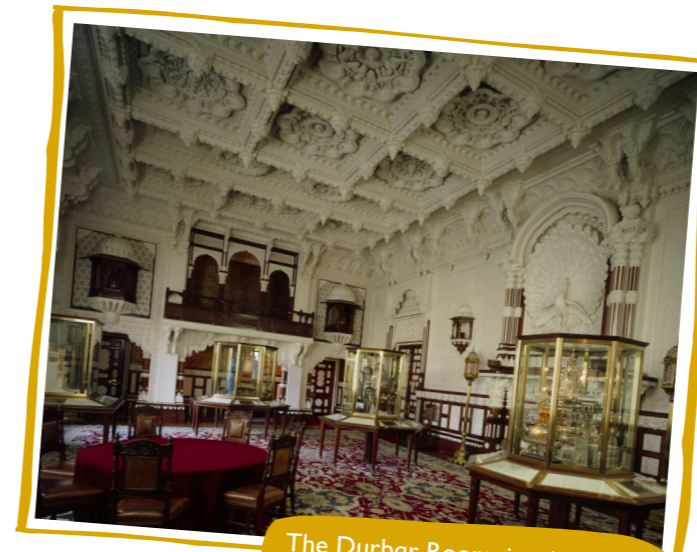
- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1 | 4 |
| 2 | 5 |
| 3 | 6 |

B **Draw** your house design here:

HINT:

Think about how big it will be, how many rooms you want and any outdoor features you'd like.

ACTIVITY 10 – DURBAR CORRIDOR AND DURBAR ROOM



The Durbar Room, inspired by north Indian architecture.

Go down the stairs to the Durbar Wing on the ground floor. It was built in 1890–91 after Queen Victoria became Empress of India. The Queen never got to visit India, so the Wing is designed to make you feel as though you've been transported there.

The Queen had five or six Indian servants at Osborne. They wore turbans and a white uniform in summer, and a red and gold uniform in winter.

A **Explore** the area and **find** these things:

- portraits of Abdul Karim in the corridor
- the carved peacock above the fireplace in the Durbar Room

B Special guests were invited to banquets in this room, with delicious feasts, classical music and dramatic performances. **Imagine** the sights and sounds.

I can see ... e.g. a table full of food	
I can hear ... e.g. classical music coming from the balcony	

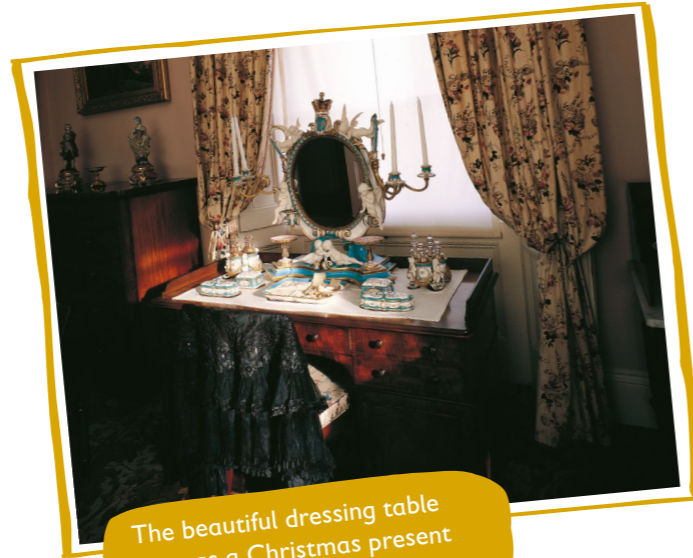
DID YOU KNOW?



One of Queen Victoria's Indian servants, a 24-year-old Muslim called Abdul Karim, taught her how to speak Hindustani (a group of languages spoken in north-west India).

ACTIVITY 9 – QUEEN VICTORIA'S DRESSING ROOM AND BEDROOM

Go through Queen Victoria's Dressing Room into her Bedroom. The bath in here is cleverly disguised to look like a wardrobe with a mirror when it's not in use.



The beautiful dressing table set was a Christmas present from Albert in 1853.

When you get into the bedroom, spot the small green pouch on the headboard where Prince Albert used to keep his pocket watch.

A There is a portrait of Prince Albert on one side of the headboard, which the Queen put there after he died.

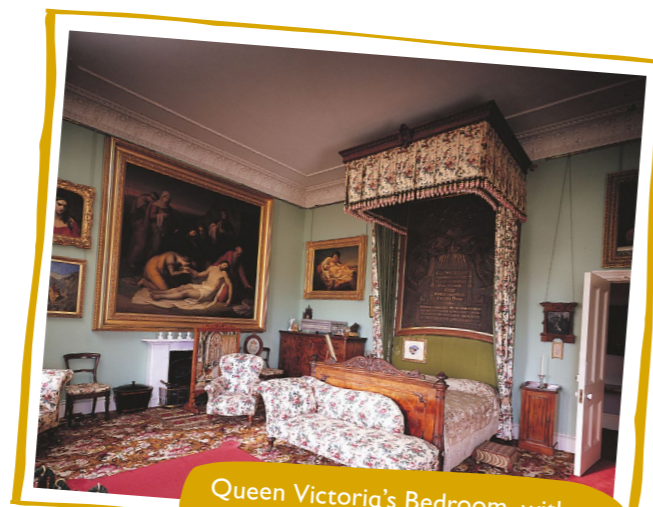
What does this tell you about how much she loved and missed Prince Albert?

.....

.....

.....

B Queen Victoria died in the bedroom on a cold January day, surrounded by her grown-up children. **Imagine** how they felt as they gathered around her.



Queen Victoria's Bedroom, with a bronze plaque above the bed made to remember her after she died.

WELCOME!

Osborne was Queen Victoria and Prince Albert's special seaside home, built between 1845 and 1851. You are here to discover more about the private lives of the royal family, their guests and their servants.

You'll learn about:

- some of the interesting things in each room
- what life was like when Queen Victoria and Prince Albert lived here
- how the rooms were used by the royal family.



As you follow the trail, look out for the initials V&A used as a decoration on things in the house.



An aerial view of Osborne.

Use the plan to help you find your way around the house and keep track of the activities.

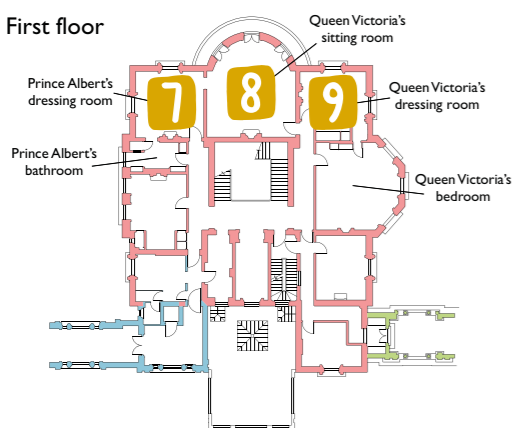
Have a look round the exhibition room. Then continue down the hall until you get to the **Grand Corridor**, where the trail begins.

OSBORNE HOUSE

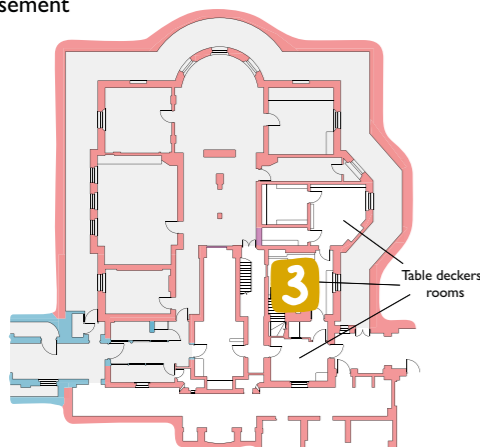
Second floor



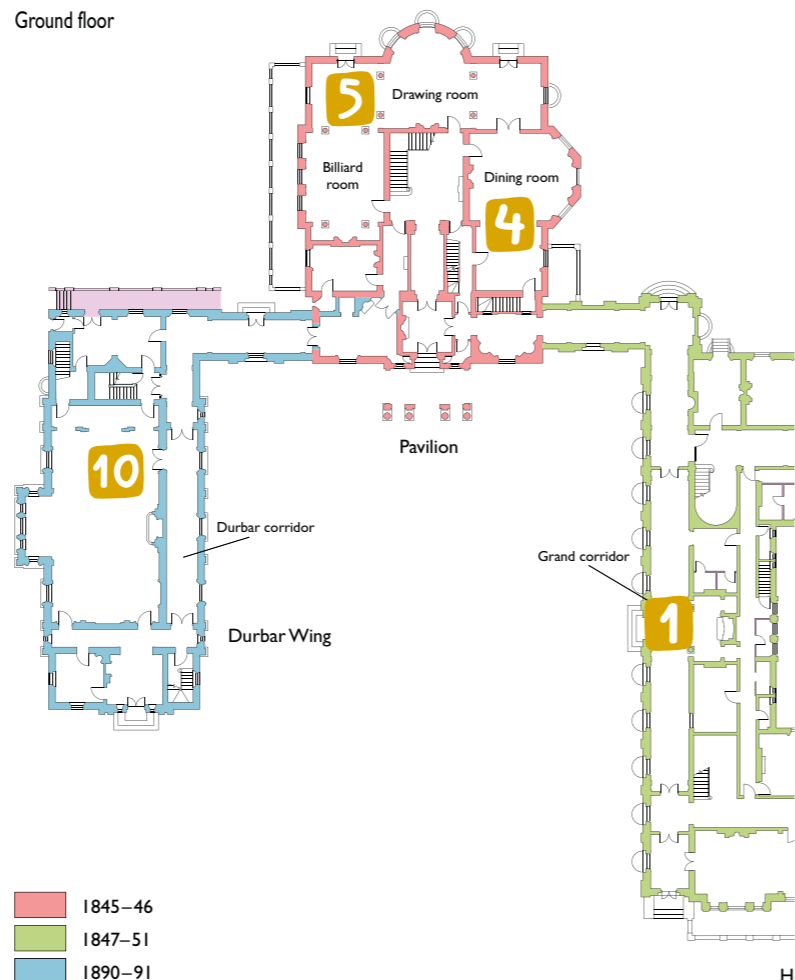
First floor



Basement



Ground floor



- 1845–46
- 1847–51
- 1890–91
- 20th century
- not accessible to visitors

ACTIVITY 8 – QUEEN VICTORIA'S SITTING ROOM

The royal couple worked here, side-by-side, during the day. There are bell pulls on the Queen's desk to call for her personal servants.



Queen Victoria's Sitting Room with her desk and Albert's next to each other.

DID YOU KNOW?



Queen Victoria still had to work on government business whilst she was at Osborne. Boxes of paperwork were sent to her across the sea on a daily basis.

A **Spot** the dispatch boxes to the left of the desk – they were used to carry Queen Victoria's important documents.

DID YOU FIND THEM?

B **Decide** which desk belonged to the queen.

the one on the left

the one on the right

How do you know this was her desk?

ACTIVITY 7 – PRINCE ALBERT'S BATHROOM AND DRESSING AND WRITING ROOM

Find the pages' alcove as you go down the stairs to the first floor. A page would sit in this small room from 8am until Queen Victoria went to bed at night, in case she needed anything.



The pages' alcove, where you can still see the bells used to call the pages.



Prince Albert's Dressing and Writing Room where he would read or write while the queen was asleep.

Prince Albert's Bathroom, along with his Dressing and Writing Room, are part of the royal couple's private apartments. Prince Albert used these rooms during his 'golden morning hour' before the Queen got up.

DID YOU KNOW?



After Prince Albert died, the Queen kept these rooms exactly as they had been when he was alive. For many years after his death, hot water was still brought up, to wash with every day – as if he was still there.

A Spot these things as you walk through the room:

- a wash jug and bowl
- two writing tables
- a harmonium (musical instrument)

B Who painted the pictures of the royal children hanging above the harmonium?



KEY

- 1 Activity 1 – Grand Corridor
- 2 Activity 2 – Council Room and Audience Room
- 3 Activity 3 – Table-deckers' Rooms
- 4 Activity 4 – Dining Room
- 5 Activity 5 – Drawing Room and Billiard Room
- 6 Activity 6 – Nursery
- 7 Activity 7 – Prince Albert's Bathroom and Dressing and Writing Room
- 8 Activity 8 – Queen Victoria's Sitting Room
- 9 Activity 9 – Queen Victoria's Dressing Room and Bedroom
- 10 Activity 10 – Durbar Corridor and Durbar Room

ACTIVITY 1 – GRAND CORRIDOR




The Grand Corridor and its many statues showing Prince Albert's love for Italian art and sculpture.

You are walking in the footsteps of Queen Victoria! She walked here when the weather was too bad to go out. If you look through the double doors, you can see the entrance with four pillars that the royal family used.

A Write down three words to describe your first impressions of Osborne House.

- 1
- 2
- 3

DID YOU KNOW? 

The servants had to use an entrance at the side of the house so they weren't seen by important guests.

B Walk down the corridor and look for the entrance used by the Queen's important ministers and advisers.

DID YOU FIND IT?

HINT:
it's a set of double doors about halfway along the corridor on the left.



Queen Victoria as she may have looked in the 1850s.

Whose statue did the ministers see opposite them when they entered the house?

.....

ACTIVITY 6 – NURSERY



The Nursery Bedroom, recreated to look like the room would have done in 1873.

Go up the stairs to the second floor. These rooms were used by the royal children and the people who looked after them. In later years, Queen Victoria's grandchildren used the Nursery when they visited.

A Explore the Nursery rooms and spot these things:

- little chairs for children
- a swing-cot with gold fabric, made for Princess Vicky in 1840
- a screen to shield the children from the breeze when windows were open
- a toy made to look like Noah's Ark

B The royal children didn't go to school but were taught at home. Would you prefer to be educated at school, or at home? Circle your answer and explain why.

School / Home

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The Queen had a marble sculpture made of her babies' limbs so she could remember what they were like when they were little.

ACTIVITY 5 – DRAWING ROOM AND BILLIARD ROOM



The Drawing Room with its yellow and gold furniture and beautiful chandeliers.

The royal family and important guests would 'withdraw' into the impressive Drawing Room after dinner. Famous musicians or singers sometimes performed in this room to entertain guests.

A **Look** for the statues of all nine royal children. They are dressed like characters in stories.

How many did you find? out of nine

B What type of stone are the plaster columns painted to look like?



The billiard table in this room weighs 2.5 tonnes!

DID YOU KNOW?



There are four ingenious mirrors in here that slide into the wall to reveal a window. This meant there could be natural light during the day and reflected light in the evening.

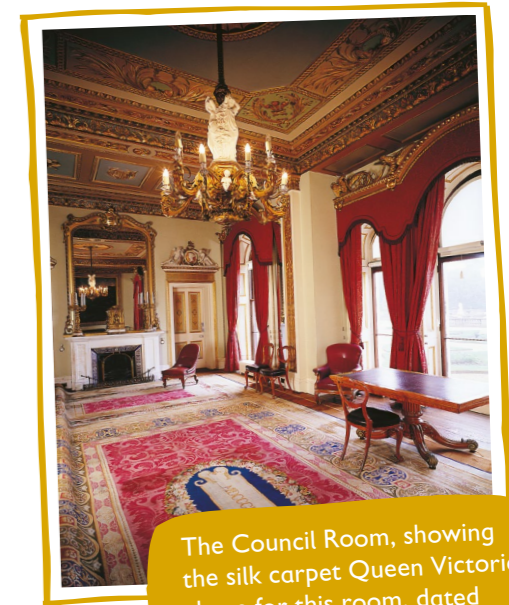
C **Look** at the chandeliers reflected in the mirrors. How many chandeliers can you count?

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On a scale of 1–10, how impressed are you with these rooms (1=least, 10=most)?

.....

ACTIVITY 2 – COUNCIL ROOM AND AUDIENCE ROOM



The Council Room, showing the silk carpet Queen Victoria chose for this room, dated MDCCCLI (1851).

Queen Victoria met her government ministers here several times a year. In this very room, on 14 January 1878, Alexander Graham Bell showed the Queen how the telephone, which he had invented in 1876, worked.

A **Explore** the two rooms, **spot** these things and **match** them to their description:

- Two handles beside the fireplace
- Portraits of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert
- A glass chandelier above the table

- In the Council Room, on different sides of the main doorway.
- In the Council Room, used to call the servants.
- In the Audience Room, made to look like Albert's favourite flowers.

The Audience Room where government ministers would wait to meet with the Queen.



B **Imagine** sitting in these rooms with Queen Victoria. **Decide** on one question you would like to ask her.

.....

ACTIVITY 3 – TABLE-DECKERS' ROOMS

Go down the corridor and stop at the big double windows that look out over the sea, towards Portsmouth. If it's a clear day, you might even spot Spinnaker Tower in the distance.

Now take the stairs to the basement where the servants worked. Notice the differences between Queen Victoria's rooms (upstairs) and the servants' rooms (downstairs).

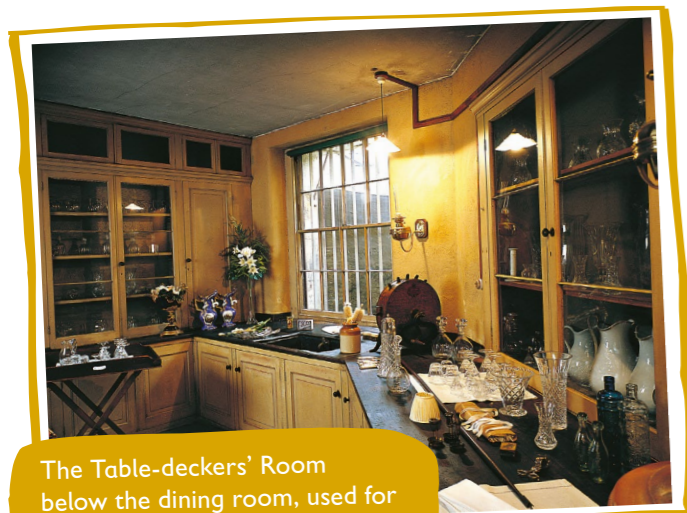
A **Spot** the duties board in the first servants' room you arrive at. If you worked for the royal household, what duties do you think you'd be asked to do?

- 1
- 2

Would you have liked to be a servant for Queen Victoria?
Circle your answer and **discuss** with your group. **Yes / No**

B **Find** the Table-deckers' Room. Table-deckers were servants in charge of laying the royal dining table for lunch and dinner. What was the large round wooden object in the middle used for?

.....



The Table-deckers' Room below the dining room, used for preparing food and washing up.

DID YOU KNOW?



Table-deckers used a ruler to make sure each place at the royal table was perfectly laid out!

ACTIVITY 4 – DINING ROOM

Go up the stairs to the Dining Room. The royal family and their guests ate at the larger table while Queen Victoria's ladies-in-waiting sat at the other.



On one of the tables in the Dining Room, you will find the ruler and set square used by the table-deckers.

A **Spot** the large painting of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert with some of their children. It's on the wall above a large sideboard.

DID YOU FIND IT?

Look closely at the picture. What message do you think Queen Victoria wanted to convey to people who looked at this painting?

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.....

DID YOU KNOW?



Victorian boys, including the royal princes, wore dresses until they were about six years old. They weren't allowed to eat in here until they were ten.

HINT:

Look at the children – are they sitting sensibly, or playing? Look at Queen Victoria and Prince Albert's body language.

B **Imagine** you are a table-decker, in charge of laying two places at the Queen's table for dinner. **Draw** your table design here:

HINT:

Think about where you are going to put plates, side plates, napkins, knives, forks, spoons, drinking glasses, candles and flowers.