Activity 1

Summary
Experts at English Heritage have produced lots of fun and informative videos about Avis Crocombe, the cook at Audley End in the 1880s, and her book of Victorian recipes. You can find these videos on the English Heritage YouTube channel.

We suggest you start by watching this video to find out who the real Mrs Crocombe was:

1. Who was Mrs Crocombe? Behind the scenes of The Victorian Way (2 min 45 sec) [youtu.be/y8sHgBFWhbQ]

Then watch Mrs Crocombe cooking a selection of her Victorian recipes in the videos below:

2. How to Make Biscuits – The Victorian Way (2 min 57 sec) [youtu.be/lRI9LHBOpk0]

3. How to Make Gingerbread – The Victorian Way (3 min 49 sec) [youtu.be/HeL5rk-UniM]

4. How to Make Pancakes – The Victorian Way (3 min 42 sec) [youtu.be/tHvpD-fy2c0]

5. How to Make Curry – The Victorian Way (4 min 03 sec) [youtu.be/0WTyHiMvD7Y]

Refer to sources 10 and 11 in the Sources section of the Teachers’ Resource Pack for more information on the life of a Victorian cook at Audley End.

Pick one of the videos to watch as a group. Use this as inspiration for pupils to create their own cookery book recipe, including a drawing of the completed dish.
MORE LEARNING IDEAS

Watch the English Heritage YouTube video ‘A Day in the Life of Audley End House and Gardens’ (2 min 35 sec) [youtube.com/watch?v=U7yLO7rlkel] and ask pupils to make a list of the activities they see happening in the video. Then split the activities into those which would only take place today at Audley End with English Heritage, those which would have taken place in Victorian times when Audley End was owned by Lord Braybrooke, and those which could have happened in both.