This resource will help teachers plan a visit to Osborne, which offers unrivalled insight into the private lives of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert and the empire over which they ruled.

Use this Timeline in the classroom to help students get the most out of their learning about Osborne.

Get in touch with our Education Booking Team

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

• The Adventures of a Victorian Explorer (KS2)
• Waiting on Hand and Foot (KS2)
• Story Mat (KS1)

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1837–1901 Reign of Queen Victoria.

1840 Victoria marries Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg.

1845 Victoria buys the Osborne estate for just under £28,000 with money from the privy purse, her private income. Work begins on building a larger house for her family.

1844 Swiss Cottage is given to the royal children on Queen Victoria’s birthday.

1846 Queen Victoria writes that she is ‘delighted with the house’.

1849 Lord Melbourne dies.

1850 Prince Albert dies of typhoid.

1854 Maharajah Duleep Singh visits Osborne soon after he had been deposed and sent into exile in England.

1856 The gamekeeper John Brown is brought from Balmoral to Osborne to encourage the grieving queen to ride her pony and take up public duties again.

1857 Queen Victoria gives Albert the title of Prince Consort of the British Crown.

1858 Queen Victoria gives Albert the title of Prince of Wales.

1859 Queen Victoria gives Albert the title of Duke of Edinburgh.

1860 Queen Victoria gives Albert the title of King of Hanover.

1861 Victoria and Albert visit the Osborne estate.

1863 Queen Victoria celebrates her Golden Jubilee.

1864 A smoking room is built for the Prince of Wales as the queen will not allow anyone to smoke in the house.

1865 Queen Victoria gives Albert the title of Duke of Cambridge.

1866 Alexander Graham Bell demonstrates the telephone to Queen Victoria in the Council Room.

1870 Queen Victoria celebrates her Silver Jubilee.

1872 Queen Victoria celebrates her Diamond Jubilee.

1875 Victoria and Albert die.

1876 Prince Albert dies of typhoid.

1877 Queen Victoria celebrates her Golden Jubilee.

1878 Queen Victoria is given the title Empress of India.

1879 Queen Victoria celebrates her Diamond Jubilee.

1881 Queen Victoria celebrates her Platinum Jubilee.

1882 Prince Edward is born.

1883 John Brown dies.

1884 Victoria and Albert open the Osborne estate to the public.

1885 Queen Victoria celebrates her Diamond Jubilee.

1886 Queen Victoria celebrates her Golden Jubilee.

1887 The first two Indian servants, Abdul Karim and Mohammed Buksh, join the queen’s household.

1888 Abdul Karim is promoted to ‘munshi’, or ‘tutor’, teaching the queen Urdu.

1890–92 The Durbar Wing is built. Its decoration is designed by Khwaja Rasool Singh and Lockwood Kipling.

1893 Queen Victoria celebrates her Diamond Jubilee.

1894 The Colonial and Indian Exhibition is held in London.

1895 Queen Victoria celebrates her Diamond Jubilee.

1896 Queen Victoria is given the title Empress of India.

1897 Queen Victoria dies at Osborne House.

1898 King Edward VII promises that Osborne House will always be open to the public, in memory of Queen Victoria.

1901 The Second World War.

1902 Queen Victoria celebrates her Diamond Jubilee.

1903 The Edward VII Convalescent Home for Officers opens. The ground floor of the pavilion and Swiss Cottage are opened to visitors.

1904 Queen Elizabeth II gives permission for Queen Victoria’s private rooms to be opened to visitors.

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1906 The Edward VII Convalescent Home for Officers opens.

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1908 English Heritage takes over the management of Osborne House.

1909–10 The Edward VII Convalescent Home for Officers opens.

1910 Queen Victoria dies at Osborne House.

1911 The Colonial and Indian Exhibition is held in London.

1912 The Edward VII Convalescent Home for Officers opens.

1913 The Edward VII Convalescent Home for Officers opens.

1914–18 The First World War.

1918–20 The Second World War.

1922–present Reign of Queen Elizabeth II.