

Life as a Victorian Servant

Tools and Equipment

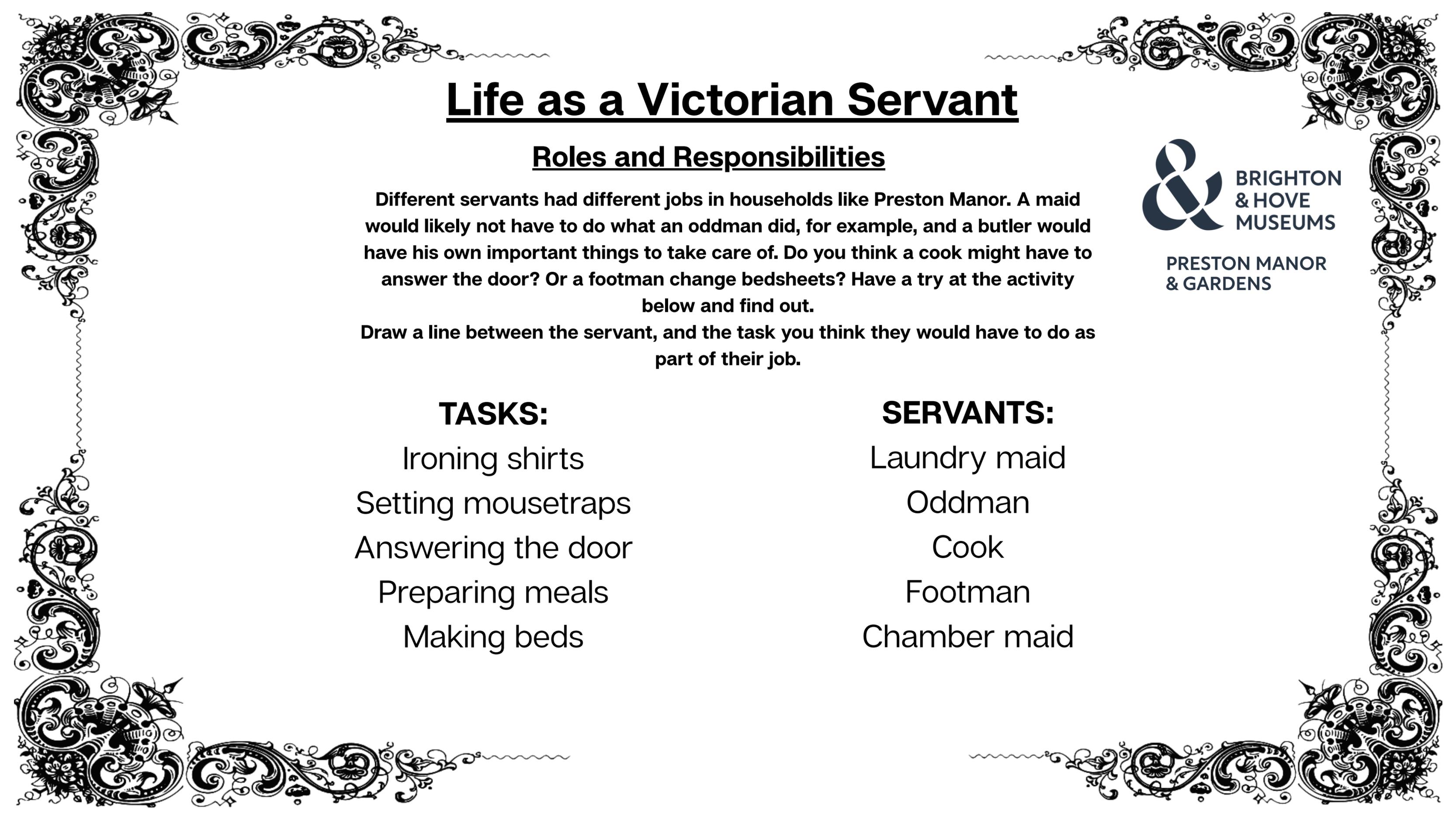
Victorian servants used many different objects to help them do their jobs properly. Some of them you might know, as they are still being used in homes like yours today. Others might look very different to our modern versions or may be rarely or no longer be in use at all by us in the 21st century (our current time period)

Circle the items you think would be used in a household like Preston Manor in Victorian Britain.

Microwave
Candle wick trimmer
Chamber pot
Weighing scales
Carpet beater
Scrubbing brush
Air conditioner
Digital clock

Doorbell camera
Coal scuttle
Cordless telephone
Mangle
Plug-in heater
Home computer
Oil lamps
Silver cutlery





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Roles and Responsibilities

Different servants had different jobs in households like Preston Manor. A maid would likely not have to do what an oddman did, for example, and a butler would have his own important things to take care of. Do you think a cook might have to answer the door? Or a footman change bedsheets? Have a try at the activity below and find out.

Draw a line between the servant, and the task you think they would have to do as part of their job.



**PRESTON MANOR
& GARDENS**

TASKS:

Ironing shirts
Setting mousetraps
Answering the door
Preparing meals
Making beds

SERVANTS:

Laundry maid
Oddman
Cook
Footman
Chamber maid



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& GARDENS**

Storymaking - A Day in the Life

The writing below is all about life as a Victorian servant. Imagine if you were working as a servant in Preston Manor and write a story or poem about it. How do you feel? What do you enjoy doing? What do you not enjoy doing? Are you tired? Do you like the people you work with? What is the food like? What can you see/touch/hear/taste? What is the first thing you do in the morning, and the last thing you do at night?

A Victorian servant working at a house like Preston Manor might start their day as early as 6am and finish their day as late as 9pm or 10pm at night. That's around sixteen hours at work! A maid may first light fires, fill coal buckets and do some cleaning. In the kitchen, they could expect to get ingredients and kitchen tools ready and make breakfast for the other servants. Other jobs for a maid throughout the day would include beating the carpets, mending clothing and sheets, doing laundry, making beds, ironing, dusting and cleaning floors and furniture, washing up, and shutting the kitchen at the end of the day. A footman might start his day by serving the family breakfast, and later in the day, other meals. He would tidy up afterwards, cleaning and polishing candle holders or knives, forks and spoons, and checking on the fireplaces. Later, he would be asked to stand at the front door to open it for any visitors and do jobs such as delivering letters. He might help the butler in his tasks at the end of the day, joining him to make sure the house is safe and locked up, and that the family are happy, and have everything they need for the night, such as enough candles.

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Answers



PRESTON MANOR
& GARDENS

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Modern objects:

Microwave
Air Conditioner
Digital clock
Doorbell camera
Cordless telephone
Plug-in heater
Home computer

Victorian objects:

Candle wick trimmer
Chamber pot
Weighing scales
Carpet beater
Scrubbing brush
Coal scuttle
Mangle
Oil lamps
Silver cutlery

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Ironing shirts <-----> Laundry Maid
Setting mousetraps <-----> Oddman
Answering the door <-----> Footman
Preparing meals <-----> Cook
Making beds <-----> Chamber maid