

Life as a Victorian Servant at Preston Manager

Activities KS1





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 no longer be used by us at all today in the 21st century.

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 phone

Mangle

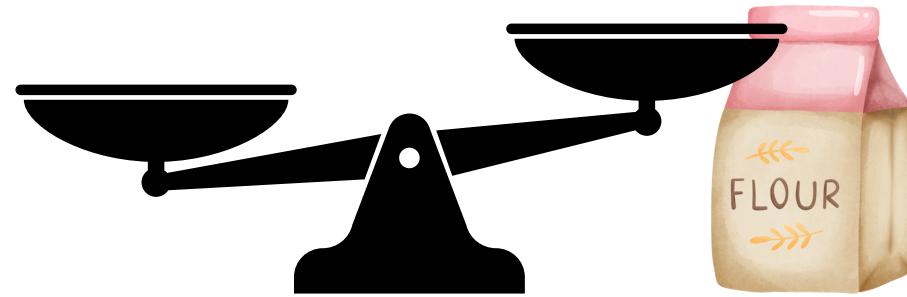
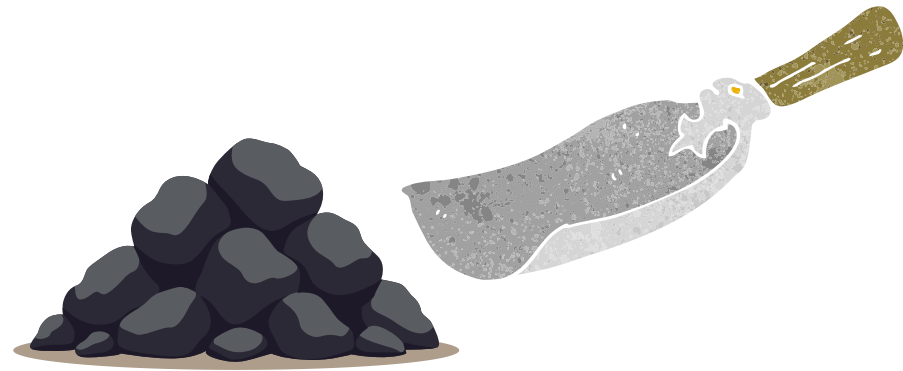
Plug-in heater

Home computer

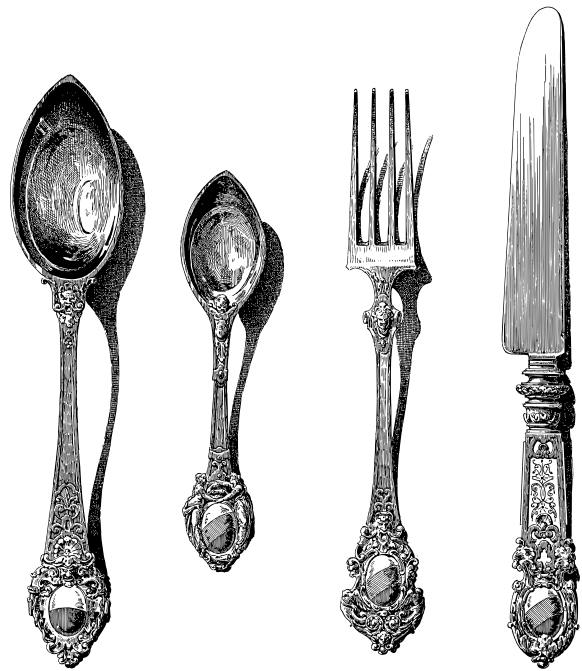
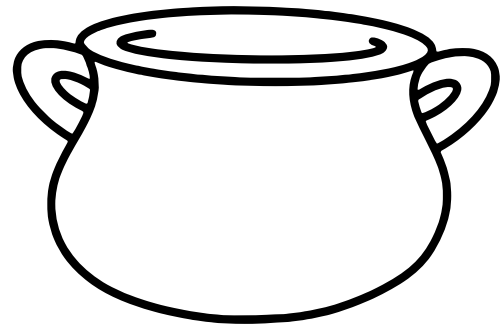
Oil lamps

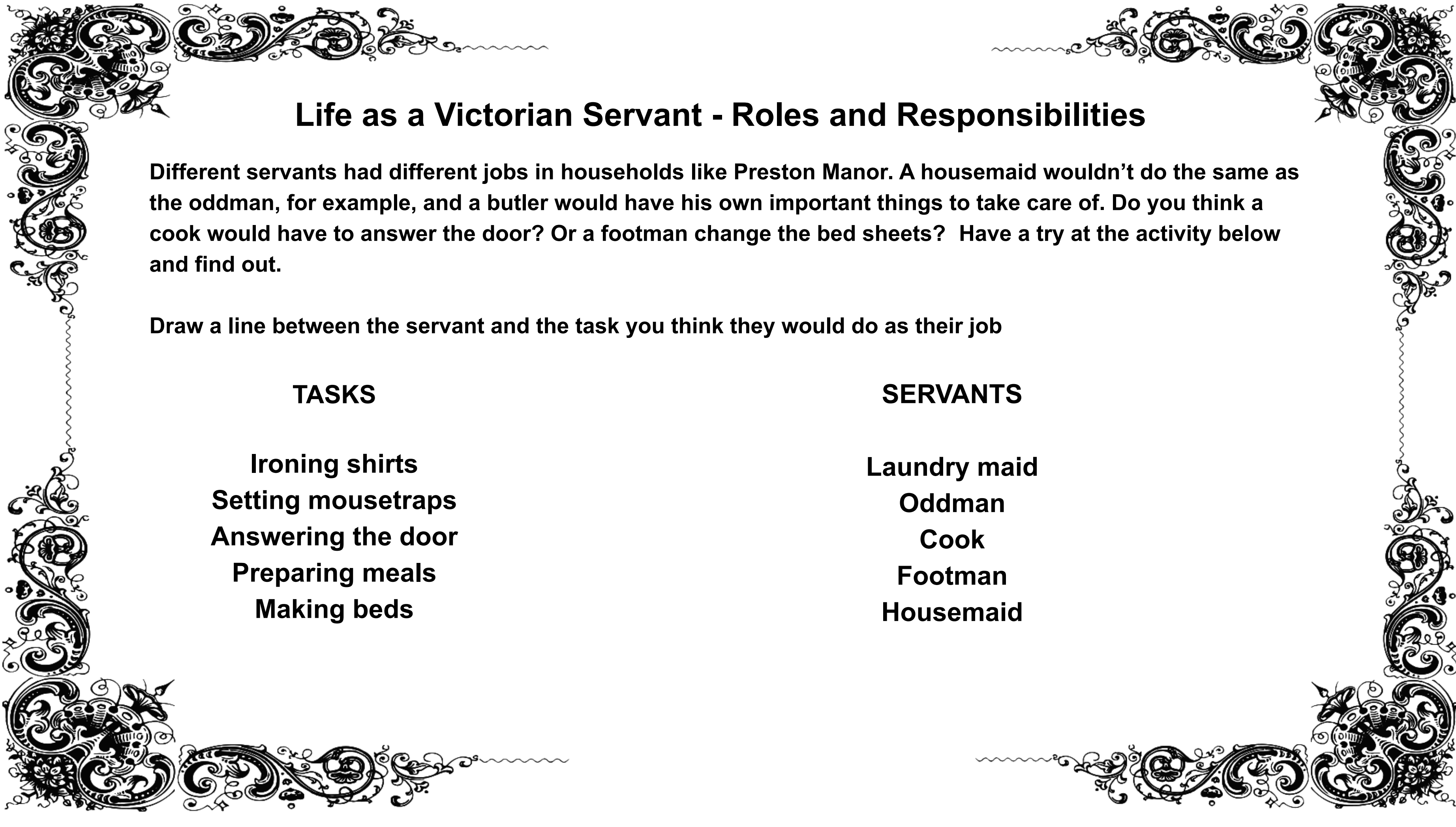
Silver cutlery





How many servants' tools do you recognise here? What are they used for?





Life as a Victorian Servant - Roles and Responsibilities

Different servants had different jobs in households like Preston Manor. A housemaid wouldn't do the same as the oddman, for example, and a butler would have his own important things to take care of. Do you think a cook would have to answer the door? Or a footman change the bed sheets? Have a try at the activity below and find out.

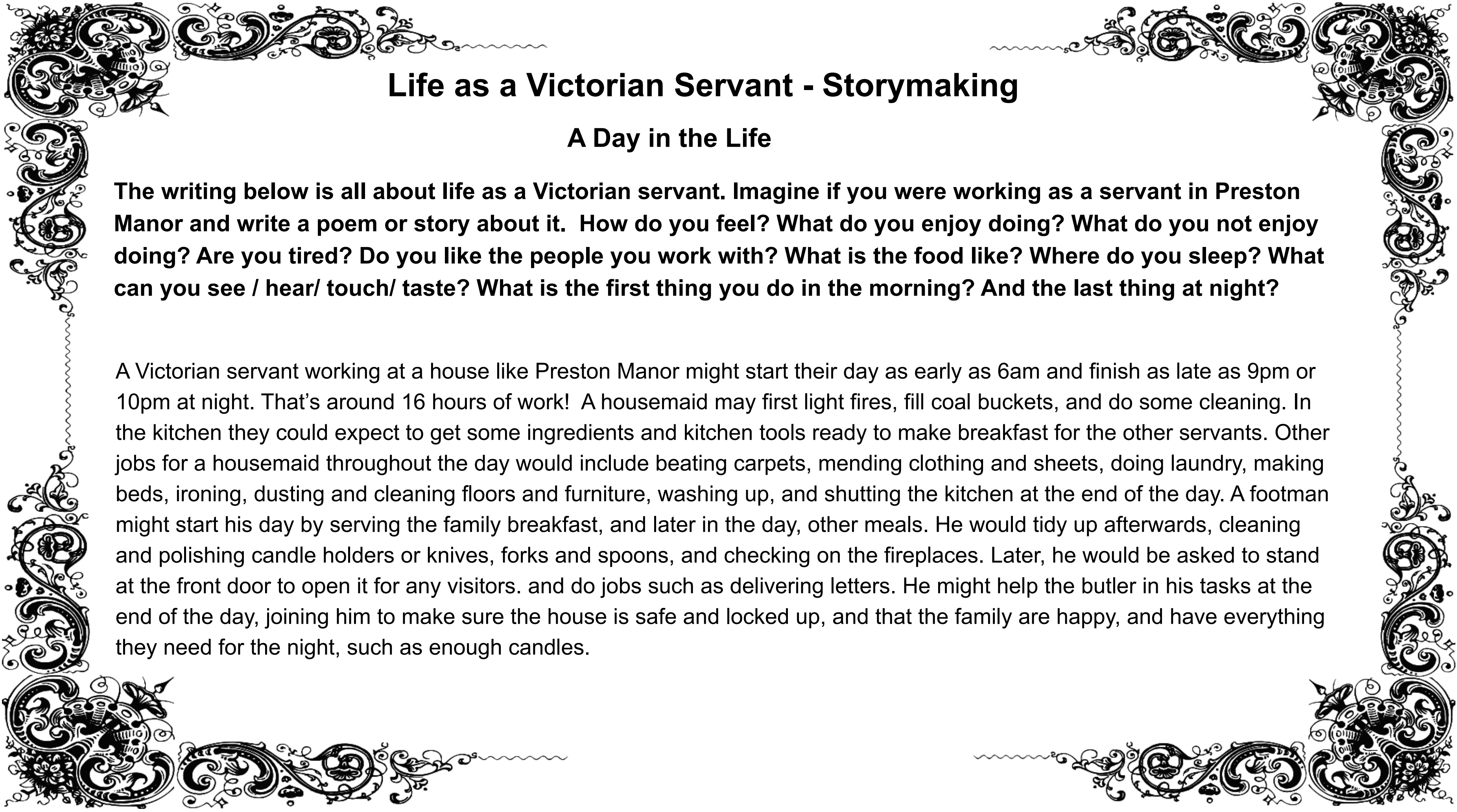
Draw a line between the servant and the task you think they would do as their job

TASKS

Ironing shirts
Setting mousetraps
Answering the door
Preparing meals
Making beds

SERVANTS

Laundry maid
Oddman
Cook
Footman
Housemaid

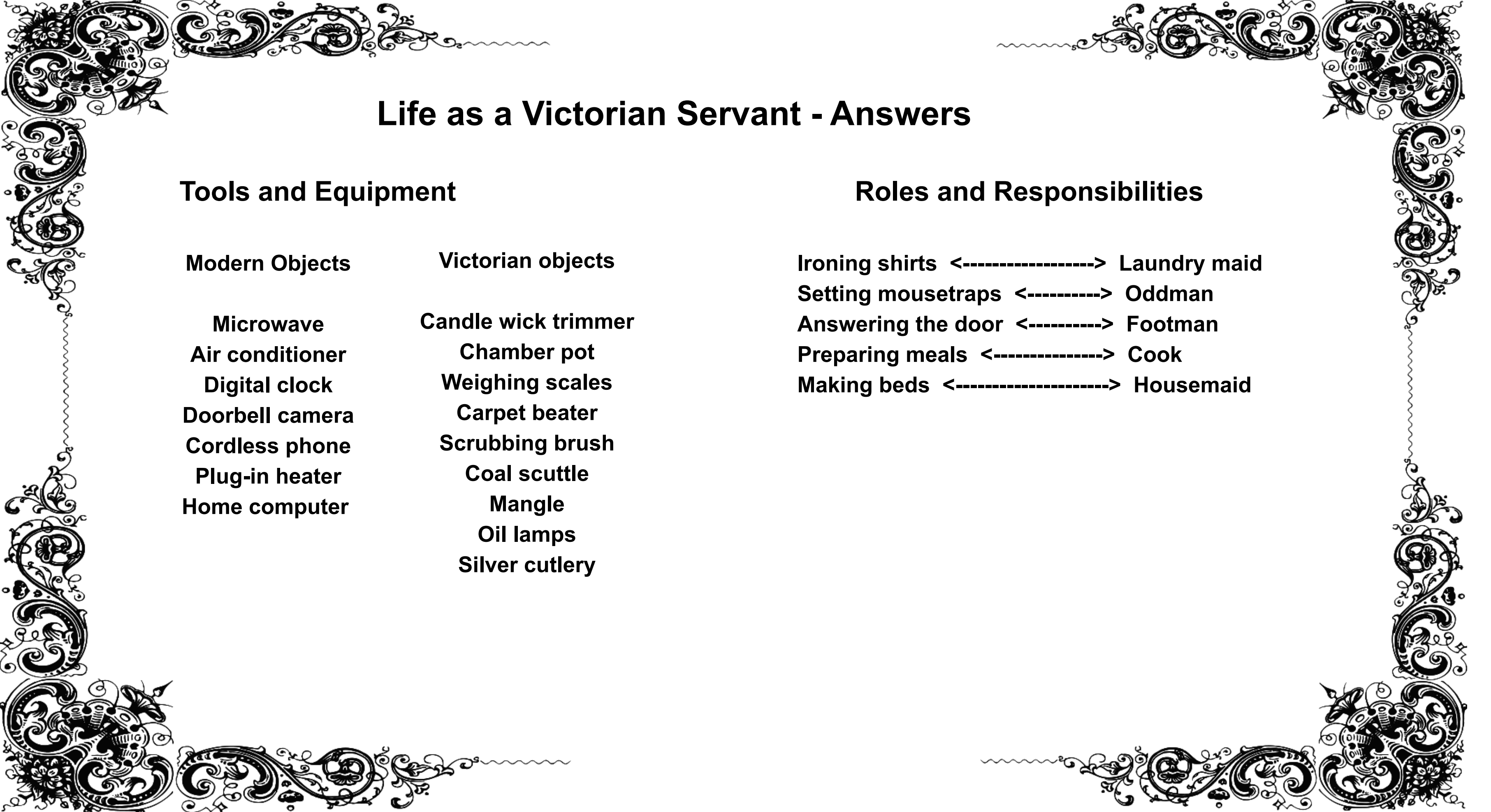
A decorative border with intricate floral and scrollwork patterns surrounds the text. The border is composed of four corner pieces and two horizontal pieces, each featuring detailed designs of leaves, flowers, and swirling lines.

Life as a Victorian Servant - 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 poem or story 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? Where do you sleep? What can you see / hear/ touch/ taste? What is the first thing you do in the morning? And the last thing at night?

A Victorian servant working at a house like Preston Manor might start their day as early as 6am and finish as late as 9pm or 10pm at night. That's around 16 hours of work! A housemaid may first light fires, fill coal buckets, and do some cleaning. In the kitchen they could expect to get some ingredients and kitchen tools ready to make breakfast for the other servants. Other jobs for a housemaid throughout the day would include beating 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.



Life as a Victorian Servant - Answers

Tools and Equipment

Modern Objects

Microwave
Air conditioner
Digital clock
Doorbell camera
Cordless phone
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

Roles and Responsibilities

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