

Life as a Victorian Servant Puzzles

1 Tools and Equipment Now and Then

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 today. Others might look very different to our modern versions or may now no longer be in use.

Circle the items you think would be used in a household like Preston Manor in Victorian Britain. What were they used for?

Microwave

Candle

Wick trimmer

Scrubbing brush

Digital clock

Coal scuttle

Mangle

Computer

Silver cutlery

Chamber pot

Weighing scales

Carpet beater

Air conditioner

Doorbell camera

Mobile phone

Plug-in heater

Oil lamp

Bed warming pan





2 Match the Servant Jobs

Different servants had different jobs in households like Preston Manor. A housemaid did not have to do what an oddman did, for example, and a butler had his own important things to take care of. Do you think a cook answered the door? Did a footman change bedsheets? Try the activity below to find out.

Draw a line between the servant, and the task you think they did as part of their job.

TASKS

Ironing shirts

Setting mousetraps

Answering the door

Cooking meals

Making beds

Looking after the wine cellar

Peeling potatoes

Washing up

SERVANTS

Oddman

Cook

Footman

Housemaid

Laundry maid

Kitchen maid

Butler

Scullery Maid

3 Write a Story - A Day in the Life



The writing below is all about life as a Victorian servant. Read it and try to imagine you are a servant in Preston Manor. 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? Can you make this into a story or a poem?

A Day in the Life of a Servant at Preston Manor

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 housemaid would start her day by lighting fires in each room to make sure her master and mistress don't get cold. She would then start to clean the house from top to bottom, scrubbing the floors, beating the carpets, polishing the furniture and making sure there was no dirt or grime anywhere. Other jobs included mending clothes and sheets, doing laundry, making beds, and dusting. A footman would begin 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 delivering letters. If visitors called, the footman answered the door. The footman might also help the butler at the end of the day, making 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. Throughout the day other servants would be busy with other tasks. The oddman might chop wood for the fire, carry water up and downstairs for baths, repair and fix things and do any odd jobs that came up. The butler would be busy checking the wine cellars, polishing silver and, as the main servant, checking that the other servants were all behaving themselves and doing their jobs properly. In the kitchen the cook would plan meals, prepare shopping lists and prepare the main meals which could have several courses and contain food that was difficult to cook. The kitchen maid would help the cook to prepare food, and the scullery maid would do the washing up.



Puzzle Answers

1 Tools and Equipment Now and Then

Now

Microwave
Air conditioner
Digital clock
Doorbell camera
Mobile phone
Plug-in heater
Computer

Victorian Times

Candle
Wick trimmer
Chamber pot
Weighing scales
Carpet beater
Scrubbing brush
Mangle
Oil lamps
Silver cutlery
Coal scuttle
Bed warming pan

2 Match the Servant Jobs

Ironing shirts <-----> Laundry Maid

Setting mousetraps <-----> Oddman

Answering the door <-----> Footman

Cooking meals <-----> Cook

Making beds <-----> Housemaid

Looking after the wine cellar <-----> Butler

Peeling potatoes <-----> Kitchen maid

Washing up <-----> Scullery maid