

'Palace in Waiting' Lesson 4: The Coronation



Curriculum focus: Literacy – Writing a newspaper account, Geography & computing, Citizenship & PSHE

Victoria left Kensington Palace with her mother and Baroness Lehzen and moved into Buckingham Palace in preparation for her coronation of 28th June 1838.

Look carefully at the two pictures and, using the Teachers' Notes as a guide, discuss with the class. For example, who are some of the key characters.

Writing Task

It's the 28th June 1838 and you are a journalist for The Times newspaper. You have been sent to Westminster Abbey to report on the coronation.

Ask them to either:

Write an account of the moment in the coronation, inside Westminster Abbey, that is shown in the painting. Include an interview with one of the important characters (e.g. Lord Melbourne, The Queen's

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mother – Duchess of Kent, The Archbishop of Canterbury, Duke of Wellington, a page-boy or a lady-in-waiting)

- What did they wear? Did it look comfortable?
- What did the Abbey look like? What sounds were heard? What about touch?
- What was the most memorable thing they saw?

How did they feel when the Queen was crowned?



Alternatively, write an account of the moment in the coronation, outside Westminster Abbey, that is shown in the second painting. Interview some of the people in the crowd waiting outside or a Guardsman on duty, for example.

- What did they wear? Why did they wear it?
- What did the procession look like? What sounds were heard?
- What was the most memorable thing they saw?

Queen Victoria – queenvictoria.lgfl.net

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- How did they feel when they knew the Queen had been crowned, following the cheers coming from inside the Abbey?

Remind the class that they are writing about a time in history – no internet, electricity, etc. There were no cars but the development of railways meant that more people could travel to watch the coronation. What additional research will they need to do to make sure their piece is historically accurate? Once they are finished, the pupils can compare stories to highlight different points of view.

Geography and Computing

Using Google Earth and Google Maps, mark out the route that Victoria took for her Coronation. How long do you estimate her journey to Westminster Abbey in the Gold State Coach would have taken? *The Gold State Coach is 3.6 metres high, 7 metres long and weighs 4 tonnes. It requires a team of eight horses to pull it.* She was also being escorted in a procession and the route was thronged with people.

Make a list of any buildings and landmarks that Victoria’s coach would have ridden past on her journey. Using a route planner work out the routes and journey times on foot, by car and by public transport.

Citizenship

Use the Coronation painting alongside archive footage of Queen Elizabeth’s coronation as a starting point. Compare with the painting of Victoria’s coronation. At this BBC link (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/zshmhyc>), you can investigate the role and duties of the Queen today. How has the role of the monarchy changed and what has remained the same?

PHSE

What does it mean when you swear an oath? Does swearing an oath change you in any way? In what situations might you be called upon to swear an oath? What does doing your duty mean? What happens if you break a promise? Is it ever right to break a promise?