

'All Change' Lesson 2: The Grand Staircase



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Curriculum focus – Art and Design and Literacy – Poetry

Look at and discuss the paintings with the class using the Teacher’s Notes. Queen Victoria and Prince Albert wanted a truly grand staircase that would impress visitors. Spend some time looking at all the details and designs that they added. (*Caryatids, friezes, family portraits*)

Art and Design Activity

Choose an important part of your school that everyone will see, such as a staircase or the entrance hall, and decorate it to impress your visitors. Do you want to design it in the way you think Prince Albert would have, or do you want to do a whole new design? What do you think Queen Victoria and Prince Albert would have thought about your designs? To begin with, split the class into groups to draw some designs.

Take some photos and measurements of the school staircase and its surroundings to help create a model of your staircase. Ask the pupils to 'pitch' their design to the Headteacher for permission to decorate the real staircase.

On completion of your new entrance or staircase, why not explore Buckingham Palace to compare designs. This is possible in three ways:

- Buckingham Palace is open for school groups to visit in September of each year. Details can be found on Royal Collection Trust's website: royalcollection.org.uk/learning/schools/london-school-visits
- For a behind-the-scenes look at the work of the Royal Household, visit the LGfL resource ‘The Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace’ (royalmews.lgfl.net), which is a cross-curricular resource for K2-4 with unique video footage from access to private parts of the Mews, plus detailed lesson plans.
- Children can take part in a Virtual Reality Tour of some of the State Rooms at Buckingham Palace with Google Cardboard. For further details about this free resource visit Google Expeditions to register: www.google.com/edu/expeditions

Poetry Activity

Create an acrostic poem around **The Grand Staircase**. Have fun playing around with staircase shapes for your poems.