



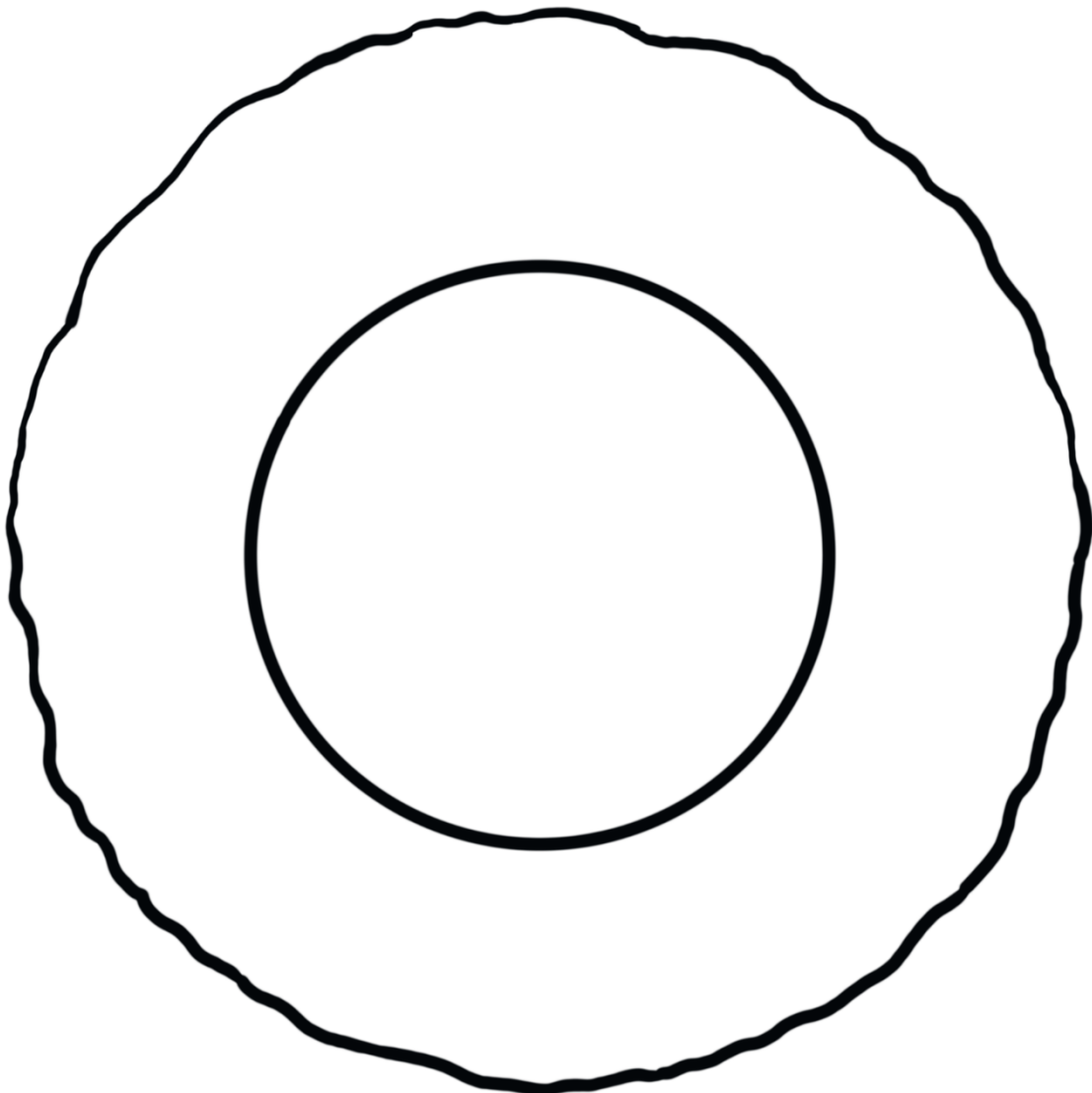
Disaster in the dining room!

Did you hear that crashing noise?

There's been a disaster in the dining room. One of the servants has smashed a plate and if the butler finds out there will be so much trouble!

Can you draw a new plate and save the day?

Have a good look at the pattern on the plates on display then see if you can draw it on the outline below:





Journey of a Lifetime

Robert Ropner set off on a journey when he was just 19 years old and it completely changed his life.

Imagine you are going on a journey of a lifetime:

Where will you go? (this can be a real, or imaginary place)

Why are you going on your journey? (are you searching for something, on a mission, discovering a new world)

What adventures will you have?

Write some ideas on the luggage label below and remember to use your imagination; this journey is going to change your life, just like Robert's did.

Where are you travelling to?

Why are you travelling?

What is going to happen on your journey?



Just like us, the Victorians used all sorts of objects in their homes – they just looked a bit different to our modern ones.

Your task is to compare a Victorian object with a modern object that has the same function. Think carefully about both objects: describe what their function is; list the advantages and disadvantages of each object then choose which one you think is the best and say why.



Victorian

Object name:

Stick picture here

V

Modern

Object name:

Stick picture here



Function (how does it work and what does it do):

.....
.....

Advantages:

.....
.....

Disadvantages:

.....
.....

This one is best because:

.....
.....

Function (how does it work and what does it do):

.....
.....

Advantages:

.....
.....

Disadvantages:

.....
.....

This one is best because:

.....
.....



The butler has asked the new footman to set the table for the family's evening meal but he hasn't done it before. He's laid the tablecloth but he's not sure what all the plates and cutlery are for! Can you help him?

Have a good look at everything on display then draw a quick sketch on the table top below of each of the different things you can see. Describe what you think each object is used for in the space around the table top then draw lines from your description to the object on the table.





The Governess

The Governess at Preston Hall was not really thought of as a servant, but she was not a member of the family either. Her role was somewhere in between and that could make it difficult for her to feel like she properly belonged either upstairs or downstairs. Unlike most of the servants, she probably had her own sitting room, but it was also likely to be used as the schoolroom.

Governesses were usually from middle class families. They were well educated and did not want to work in a shop or a factory so found work teaching either in a school or in the home of a wealthy family like the Ropners.

The Governess taught all of the Ropner girls until they were teenagers and the boys until they were about 8 years old.

The Governess taught the younger children the 3R's (reading, writing and arithmetic). Older girls were taught French conversation, History and Geography and teenage girls were taught "accomplishments" (how to do things to prepare them to be wives): how to draw, play the piano, dance and deportment (how to walk and carry themselves correctly). She also taught the Bible and moral education.

In 1901 Florence Nunn was the Governess at Preston Hall.

She was 30 years old and was born in Eccles in Lancashire.



The Nursery Maid

The Nursery Maid at Preston Hall looked after the nursery and the younger children. She got up early to clean the nursery and light the fires then she set the table for breakfast.

The Nursery Maid woke the Governess and took hot water to her bedroom. She then woke the children and got them dressed.

The Nursery Maid brought all the meals up to the nursery from the kitchen and make sure that the children ate properly.

Whilst the children were being taught she cleaned the Governess's room and sorted any of her clothes to be washed. She also after the children's clothes; sending them to be washed and mending and repairing them.

Each evening the Nursery Maid bathed the younger children. She would take them downstairs to say goodnight to Sir Robert and Lady Ropner and then put them all to bed. She then served dinner to the Governess and tidied the nursery. She was on duty if any of the children woke in the night.

In 1891 Elizabeth Hardy was the Nursery Maid at Preston Hall.

She was 27 years old and was born in Yorkshire.



The Kitchen Maid

The Kitchen Maid at Preston Hall would get up at the same time as the Scullery Maid and help her to clean the kitchen. She would also put out all the ingredients and utensils that the Cook would need that day.

The Kitchen Maid cooked breakfast for the other servants and then cooked breakfast for the Ropner family when they got up.

The Kitchen Maid would wash and cut up vegetables (helped by the Scullery Maid) and also pluck game and poultry (pheasant, duck, chicken). She would make a start on cooking stocks and soups and the Cook would check that they were right.

The Kitchen Maid cooked the servants' dinner and also made all the meals for the Ropner children in the nursery and she would do any other chores, or cooking, that the Cook asked her to do.

At the end of the day she would check that the kitchen fire was safe before shutting up the kitchen for the night.

In 1891 Margaret Clark was the Kitchen Maid at Preston Hall.

She was 21 years old and was born in Yorkshire.



The House Maid

The House Maid's job was to keep Preston Hall clean and everything in order. She got up very early to clean rooms and carry buckets of coal to light the fires long before the family woke up. Once it was time for the family to wake she would take hot water to every female member's bedroom.

While the family had breakfast, the House Maid cleaned the bedrooms: emptying bed pans and wash stands; making beds; dusting and polishing; cleaning out the fires and opening windows. She would take the rugs outside and beat them. In the evening the House Maid turned down the bed covers and put a warming pan in them.

House Maids had strict timetables so that all the jobs that needed doing in the house were completed each week: floors were mopped and polished; stairs, windows and skirting boards were cleaned; ornaments and furniture were washed and polished; and rugs, curtains and cushions were taken outside and shaken or beaten to get rid of dust so that they didn't have moths or fleas in the house.

In 1901 Edith Smedley was one of three House Maids working at Preston Hall.

She was 19 years old and was born in Darlington.



The Footman

The Footman's day at Preston Hall started by opening shutters and curtains and trimming lamps to be lit. He also cleaned the family's shoes.

The Footman laid out the breakfast table before taking hot water up to the rooms of all the male members of the Ropner family. He might also have laid out Sir Robert's clothes.

The Footman served the food at every meal and then cleared the table for one of the Housemaids to take away.

During the day the Footman was on duty to serve the family. He might go out in the carriage with Lady Ropner if she needed him, he ran errands into town and answered the door to visitors. He was also on duty if there were guests staying.

The Footman cleaned all the glasses and silverware.

At the end of the day he shut up the house and locked the doors.

The Footman had to be very smart and had an outdoor and indoor uniform.

In 1891 John Rowell was The Footman at Preston Hall.

He was 25 years old and was born in Yorkshire.



The Groom

When the Ropner family first lived at Preston Hall they would have used carriages to travel around and so they had a Groom to look after, and drive, the horses.

The Groom's day started early: he opened up the stables and cleaned out the stalls before feeding the horses. He might have had a stable boy to help him.

The horses would be exercised and then they were brushed and cleaned and their tails and manes were plaited.

The Groom also made sure that the carriage was clean and running properly. He would polish the brasses and clean the leather on it and the reins for the horses.

The Groom would be ready to take the carriage out whenever Sir Robert, Lady Ropner, or any of their adult children needed it. He would drive the horses and the Footman might come too, especially if it was a female member of the Ropner family in the carriage, as he would be needed to open doors and carry packages.

In 1891 Charles Stainton was The Groom at Preston Hall.

He was 23 years old and was born in Holywell.



The Cook

The Cook was in charge of the kitchen at Preston Hall. Often she had a Kitchen Maid and a Scullery Maid to help her and she would check each morning that they had clean hands and uniform before they started work in the kitchen.

The Cook cooked all the meals for the Ropner family so she had to know which foods were in season (that means which foods grew in spring, summer, autumn and winter) so that she could plan menus. She would check with the Gardener to see what fruit and vegetables he had ready for her to use and she also made bread, baked cakes and made jams and preserves.

The Cook wrote out the week's menu on the kitchen blackboard so that the Kitchen Maid knew what food to prepare. She was in charge of the larder and met with the Housekeeper to make lists of all the food that needed to be ordered

The Cook kept up to date with new recipes, especially if the Ropner family had guests for dinner and wanted to impress them.

In 1891 Mary Rice was The Cook at Preston Hall.

She was 46 years old and was born in Lancashire.



The Laundry Maid

The Laundry Maid washed all the clothes, sheets and linens at Preston Hall. There would be a wash house where she could do all her work and a drying room. It was hot, hard work and the Ropner family often had more than one Laundry Maid.

At the beginning of each week the Laundry Maid collected everything that needed washing; carefully checked them for marks and stains and wrote it all down in the washing book.

She separated everything into piles to be washed: white linen and collars; sheets and body linens; fine muslins; coloured cottons and linen fabric; woollens; rough kitchen cloths and greasy cloths.

Sheets and fine linen were soaked for a day in lukewarm water with some soda. The next day water was heated and the washing was done in a big tub, with a poss-stick, wash board and soap. Delicate things were washed carefully by hand. Everything was dried on a washing line or in a drying room and then the Laundry Maid ironed them with a flat iron heated on a fire.

In 1901 Anna Jenkinson and Sarah Dennis were Laundry Maids at Preston Hall. Anna was 30 years old and was born in Hatfield in Yorkshire. Sarah was 21 years old and was born in Marske.



The Gardener

The Gardener at Preston Hall did not live in the servants' quarters; he had his own cottage on the estate and was one of the senior servants.

The Gardener was in charge of all the garden areas: The Kitchen Garden and its glasshouses, The Orchard and The Winter Garden at Preston Hall.

In The Kitchen Garden he grew vegetables and soft fruit (such as strawberries and raspberries) for the kitchen and flowers for the house.

In The Orchard he grew apple, pear and plum trees.

In The Winter Garden he grew all sorts of wonderful plants such as orchids and even pineapples.

The Gardener would meet regularly with the Cook to talk about what fruit and vegetables he had available and to find out what she might need for that week's menu.

In 1901 John Davidson was The Gardener at Preston Hall.

He was 31 years old and was born in Ingram in Northumberland.



Scullery Maid

The Scullery Maid got up early to open up the kitchen at Preston Hall and get everything ready for the day.

She would clean out the kitchen fire and then light it and also make sure that the coal buckets were full.

The Scullery Maid would then clean the kitchen before the Cook came into it. She would scour the dressers and tables and also the cutting boards. At least twice a week she would scrub the kitchen floor.

The Scullery Maid helped the Kitchen Maid to wash and cut up vegetables being prepared for the Ropner family's meals.

She would do all the washing up after each meal (including the servants' meals). It was her job to clean all the pans, dishes and china – but not the silverware or the glassware as this was done by the Footman.

The Scullery Maid was also in charge of getting rid of any food waste. She would fill buckets of scraps for the pigs.

In 1901 Elizabeth King was The Scullery Maid at Preston Hall.

She was 18 years old and was born in Stockton on Tees.



The Housekeeper

The Housekeeper was the most senior member of staff at Preston Hall. She carried out the instructions of Lady Ropner and was in sole charge of all the female staff except for the Lady's Maid and the Governess.

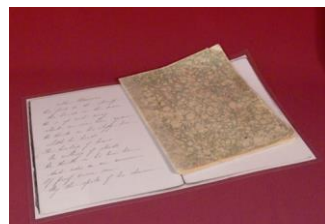
The Housekeeper was in charge of the daily running of the house; she made sure that staff had timetables for their work and checked that it was all done to her satisfaction. She kept a list of all the household linens (bedding) and made sure that the family and the servants always had a clean supply. She was also in charge of the servants' quarters.

The Housekeeper was responsible for the house accounts so she had to be good at maths; she wrote down in an account book all the money that was spent on items and tradesmen's bills. She met regularly with Lady Ropner to go through the account book.

The Housekeeper was in charge of ordering everything that was needed for the house and she met with the Cook each week to make a list of food to be ordered.

In 1911 Davida Hoskinson was The Housekeeper at Preston Hall.

She was 55 years old and was born in Glasgow.



The Lady's Maid

The Lady's Maid at Preston Hall was hired by Lady Ropner and she reported directly to her.

The Lady's Maid had to be able to read and write well, she should have a very neat appearance and she was expected to be good at sewing.

She spent a lot of time with Lady Ropner so she had to be friendly but not gossip. She particularly had to be trustworthy as she looked after Lady Ropner's jewellery and clothes.

The Lady's Maid would lay out clothes and help Lady Ropner dress and undress each day. She was expected to look after her clothes, repair any damage to them and help her choose new clothing.

The Lady's Maid styled Lady Ropner's hair and was expected to prepare lotions for her face, so she had to keep up to date with the latest fashions.

The Lady's Maid might also have looked after Lady Ropner's grown up daughters.

In 1911 Esther Adams was The Lady's Maid at Preston Hall.

She was 32 years old and was born in Stroud in Gloucestershire.



Elsa Ropner was the youngest of the Ropner children and the only one to be born at Preston Hall. She played in some of the rooms you walked through when you visited the museum. Elsa would have played some of the same sorts of games you might have played such as skipping, marbles and jigsaws. She would have had dolls and building bricks too.

Some of Elsa’s toys would have looked quite like toys you might have – but some would be quite different.

Have a look through the images of Victorian toys your teacher has put out. Which ones are similar to yours and which ones are different?

Draw some of your toys in the box below then describe them (how they work, what they do, why you like them). Choose some pictures of Elsa’s toys and stick them in the box below. Imagine why she played with them, then describe them in the box just as you did for your toys.

How many of the toys you picked are the same as Elsa’s toys and how many are different? Can you say why this is?

My toys

--

Elsa’s toys

--

Census Returns for Preston hall: 1881

Name	Relation to head of family	Single, Married, Widower, Widow	Age	Occupation	Where born?
Anna Johnson	Head	Single	38	Housekeeper	Thornaby, Yorkshire
Louisa Parker	Servant	Single	23	House Maid	Birmingham, Warwickshire
Jane Hall	Servant	Single	16	Kitchen Maid	Gainford, Durham
James Walls **	Servant	Married	41	Coachman	Melenbury, Yorkshire
Frederick Walls	Servant	Single	16	Page	Skelton, Yorkshire

** James Walls was married and probably usually lived in a cottage on the Preston Hall estate. Frederick was probably his son.

Census Returns for Preston hall: 1891

Name	Relation to head of family	Age	Occupation	Where born?
Robert Ropner	Head	52	Ship Owner & Ship Builder	Mehegburg, Prussia
Mary A Ropner	Wife	52		Co. Midlothian, Scotland
Robert Ropner Junr.	Son	28	Ship Builder	Hartlepool, Durham
Amy Ropner	Daughter	24		Hartlepool, Durham
Elsa B Ropner	Daughter	4		Preston, Durham
John Rowell	Servant	25	Footman - Domestic	Yorkshire
Charles Stainton	Servant	23	Groom - Domestic	Holywell
Mary Rice	Cook	46	Cook Domestic	Lancashire
Annie Washington	Servant	18	Laundry Maid - Domestic	Lancashire
Elizabeth Hardy	Servant	27	Nursery Maid - Domestic	Yorkshire
Margaret Pearse	Servant	22	House Maid - Domestic	Crook, Durham
Margaret Clark	Servant	21	Kitchen Maid - Domestic	Yorkshire
Mary Kilborn	Servant	27	House Maid - Domestic	Yorkshire

Census Returns for Preston Hall: 1901

Name	Relation to head of family	Single, Married, Widower, Widow	Age	Profession or Occupation	Where born?
Robert Ropner	Head	Married	62	Shipbuilder	Prussia (British subject)
Mary A Ropner	Wife	Married	62		Scotland
Leonard Ropner	Son	Single	27	Shipbuilder	Durham – Hesleden
Lilian Ropner	Daughter	Single	26		Durham – Hesleden
Mabel Ropner	Daughter	Single	24		Durham – Hesleden
Elsa B Ropner	Daughter	Single	14		Durham - Preston
Helen Smith	Visitor	Single	28		Durham - Hartlepool
Florence Nunn	Governess	Single	30	Governess	Lancashire - Eccles
Louise Rokins	Servant	Single	41	Cook – Domestic	Germany – German subject
Frances Richardson	Servant	Single	21	Kitchen Maid - Domestic	Durham - Port Clarence
Elizabeth King	Servant	Single	18	Scullery Maid - Domestic	Durham - Stockton on Tees
Delia Clarke	Servant	Single	19	House Maid - Domestic	Durham - Darlington
Edith Smedley	Servant	Single	19	House Maid - Domestic	Durham - Darlington
Annie Hodgson	Servant	Single	27	House Maid - Domestic	Durham - Winston
Mary Wear	Servant	Single	24	Sewing Maid - Domestic	Northumberland - Hexham
Anna Jenkinson	Servant	Single	30	Laundry Maid – Domestic	Yorkshire - Hatfield
Sarah Dennis	Servant	Single	21	Laundry Maid – Domestic	Yorkshire - Marske
John H Davidson **	Head	Married	31	Gardener - Domestic	Northumberland - Ingram

** John Davidson was married and probably lived in a cottage on the Preston Hall estate



Census Returns for Preston Hall: 1911

Name	Relation to head of family	Age	Single, Married, Widower, Widow	Profession or Occupation	Birthplace
Robert Ropner	Head	72	Married	Shipbuilder	Germany (Naturalised British subject 1861)
Mary Anne Ropner	Wife	73	Married		Scotland - Midlothian
Davida Alice Hoskinson	Servant	55	Single	Housekeeper	Glasgow, Lanarkshire
Samuel Farrington	Servant	22	Single	Footman	Kippax, Yorkshire
Esther Adams	Servant	32	Single	Lady's Maid	Stroud, Gloucestershire
Elleanor Baynar	Servant	40	Single	House Maid	Clogher, Co. Sligo, Ireland
Rhoda Caroline Frick	Servant	22	Single	House Maid	Lowestoft, Suffolk
Florence Ethel Gartnay	Servant	27	Single	Laundry Maid	Exeter, Devonshire
Margaret Sarah Wheaton	Servant	18	Single	Maid	Hunwick, Co Durham
Margaret Ainsley	Servant	17	Single	Kitchen Maid	Stockton, Co Durham