



Normally, videos created by our team have subtitles to make them accessible to a wider range of viewers.

However, as this workshop has been created for KS1 pupils, we believe that subtitles across the bottom of the screen would be a distraction and a barrier to learning for many in this age group. But because we understand that there may be pupils or staff taking part in this workshop who have hearing impairments, we have included this transcript of the videos for you to use as appropriate.

Video 1- Meet Lizzie

My name is Lizzie. And for me, it's Christmas Eve today. Christmas Eve 1895- so that's 125 years ago. I live in Victorian times, which means I live in a time where the Queen of England is called Victoria.

Welcome to my home. This is Preston Hall. Preston Hall is a very big and fancy house. It is filled with lots and lots of different rooms. And it's such a big house because lots of people live here. The man who owns this house is called Mr Ropner. Mr Ropner is very, very rich. He lived here with his wife, Mrs Ropner and their children. They have ten children- there are five boys and five girls!

But the Ropner family aren't the only people living here. There are other people living here as well. Mr Ropner is so rich and has so much money that he pays people to come and live in the house with the family and look after them. And do all of the nasty grown up jobs that Mr and Mrs Ropner don't want to do! The people who are paid to live here and look after the family are called servants. And we are always very busy. We cook for the family, clean for the family, do the gardening, drive the carriage- we even look after and teach the children!

My job is being a maid, which means I mainly do a lot of the cleaning. But because it's such a busy time of year, I'm busy doing lots of jobs, it's all hands on deck. And that's because Christmas is a special time for us Victorians. When is a special time for you during the year?

Video 2- Decorations and Charity

As you can see, I have been getting the hall ready for Christmas. I've been outside, collecting leaves and holly and berries, and I have been making wreaths for the doors, swags for the windowsills and garlands. I have to be really careful while I'm working though not to knock the Christmas tree.

I can't believe that until Victoria was Queen, no one in England ever had a decorated Christmas tree inside. But when Victoria got married, she married Albert, and Albert grew up in Germany. And in Germany, every year at Christmas they would chop down a tree, bring it inside and decorate it. And when Albert married Queen Victoria he decided he wanted a tree inside the Palace. Everyone who saw it thought that the Christmas tree looked so beautiful that they copied. And now everyone has a tree inside at Christmas



I'm going to have to start putting baubles on the Christmas tree soon, but I will have to be really careful because they are made from glass. I am going to have to start clipping the candles onto the tree as well. I am always really nervous about putting the candles on the tree and lighting them because I am always a little but worried that it might set me or the tree on fire! Mister Ropner loves the candles on the tree though so I am going to have to do it.

I actually really love working for Mr Ropner. He is a kind man and he always tries to help people. Charity is actually something that's very important to us Victorians at Christmas. An act of charity is when you do something kind for someone who needs it. So that could be giving them some money or something they need. It could be helping someone and giving up your spare time and doing something kind. I wonder, do you take part in any acts of charity at home or at school?

Video 3- Food at Christmas

Lizzie: I'd like you all to meet my friend Lucy. Lucy works as the Cook here at Preston Hall. Lucy is going to tell us all about how she is getting ready for Christmas.

Lucy: Hi everybody. I have been prepping for Christmas for weeks. I have had to place lots of orders. Orders for the market, the grocers, the bakers, the butchers. I feel like all I have done is cook sweetmeats and pies for days. I have just finished prepping the plum pudding. Its not Christmas without a plum pudding, the best thing about plum pudding is putting a small silver coin inside. And if you are lucky enough to get a piece with that little coin inside, that means you will have good luck for the rest of the year. You do have to be careful though, last year Mrs Ropner got that piece and she chipped her tooth!

I am also going to start prepping for the turkey. It feels a bit weird to be saying turkey because normally we would have a goose or beef but we seem to be following the Americans because they have turkey, so I think it must be becoming fashionable over here to have turkey for Christmas.

But before I start with the turkey I need to decorate some biscuits for the children. Would you like to help me decorate a tasty treat?

Video 4- Christmas Presents

Charity is very important at Christmastime and so is food, But there is something else that is important too- presents. The ten children who live in this house love Christmas presents. Every year Father Christmas (or Santa as you might know him) brings the children presents- if they have been good of course.

But Mr and Mrs Ropner like to buy the children presents from them as well. Mrs and Mrs Ropner get the children very fancy presents., they get them from a toy shop and they are very expensive. Would you like to see some of their toys?



This is a china doll that one of the children got off their Mam and Dad last year. She is made from porcelain so I have to be very careful not to drop her. And this is a wind-up toy- it's so fancy!

When I was a little girl, I didn't get fancy presents like those. My parents didn't have a lot of money and so they couldn't afford to go to a toy shop and buy me a present. Instead they would make me presents from things they already had at home. So I didn't have a china doll, instead when I was little I had a hankie doll. She is made from ribbon and fabric. One year my Dad chopped up our kitchen chair to make wood for the fire. And with some of the wood that was left over, he very cleverly carved this. It's a horse's head. And he gave it to me so I could play with it and look at it. But my most special gift is one my Mam made for me. It's a little peg doll, and it's very precious.

I love the children who live in this house, and I would like to get them a present from me. But I don't have a lot of money so I was thinking I might make them a present. I am going to make the children a peg doll. Would you like to learn to make a peg doll to give to someone special this Christmas?

Video 5- Traditional Christmas Story

Everyone is so busy tonight. Even Nanny, who usually looks after the children. She has asked if I will read their bedtime story to them. Would you like to listen? It's my favourite story, The Night Before Christmas. It's a poem that was written before Victoria was even Queen. But it's a very popular story in Victorian England. It's all about Santa arriving on Christmas Eve with his sleigh and reindeer.

***'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;***

*The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;*

*Out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,*

*With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.*

*"Now, DASHER! now, DANCER! now, PRANCER and VIXEN!
On, COMET! on, CUPID! on, DONNER and BLITZEN!"*

*And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my hand, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.*



*He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.*

*His eyes -- how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;*

*The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;
He had a broad face and a little round belly,
That shook, when he laughed like a bowlful of jelly.*

*He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;*

*He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;*

*He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,
HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD-NIGHT!*

Video 6- Favourite Things

Thank you for all of you help today everyone. I hope that you have all had a lovely time learning about Christmas in Victorian times. It's almost time for me to go to bed. But I can hear something lovely happening outside. I can hear some carol singers. Every year people come to the door of Preston Hall to sing for the family and maybe get a little bit of money for their trouble. I love hearing people sing, it is my favourite thing about Christmas. What's your favourite thing about the holiday period? Merry Christmas everyone!