

Discovery session: A Day at the Great Exhibition

A gallery based session led by V&A museum educators



The Opening of the Great Exhibition by Queen Victoria on 1 May 1851, Henry Courtney Selous, 1851.
© Victoria and Albert Museum, London

Key Stage:

KS 1

Galleries Visited:

Britain, Rooms 122 – 125, Level 4

Summary:

Go back in time to visit the Great Exhibition of 1851. First find out what you would have worn and then find out more about the exhibition and view some objects that were on show in the exhibition. Try on a corset, top hat and other Victorian clothes. Award a medal to your favourite object from the exhibition and imagine choosing a souvenir to take home.

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National Curriculum Links:

This session will contribute to learning about:

Ks1 History

- Events beyond living memory that are significant nationally or globally
- The lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national and international achievements. [for example, Queen Victoria]

Follow up activities:

Imagine you were a visitor to the Great Exhibition. Write a letter to a family member at home telling them about your visit and what you saw when you were there.

Find out how people travelled to the Great Exhibition from where you live. Would they have taken the train?

Design outfits to be worn to the Exhibition. Remember the facts about Victorian Fashion that you learnt on your tour, such as the fashion for tartan clothing. Can you incorporate some of these ideas into your designs?

Booking Information:

Available: Monday-Friday

Cost: FREE

Timing: 1 hour beginning at 10.30, 11.45 & 13.00

Capacity: Maximum 30 students per session

Book now: 020 7942 2000