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.
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Key Stage:
KS 1 or 2

Galleries Visited:
- Britain, Rooms 122 – 125, Level 3
- Islamic Middle East, Room 42, Level 0

Topics and themes:
- Queen Victoria and Victorian lifestyle
- History, Art & Design and Design & Technology links

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.

National Curriculum Links: This talk will contribute to learning about:
- 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. Some should be used to compare aspects of life in different periods [for example, Queen Victoria]
- a study of an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils' chronological knowledge beyond 1066

Follow up activities:
Write accounts about visits to the Great Exhibition and design outfits to be worn to the Exhibition. Watch video on V&A website about visiting the exhibition; http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/videos/a/video-day-at-the-great-exhibition/
www.vam.ac.uk/schools