



VICTORIAN LOCAL HISTORY

Content, skills and concepts

This chapter relates to unit 12 of the QCA Scheme of Work and will assist in planning and resourcing work on the Victorian locality. It is assumed that this unit will be taught mainly to Year 5 or 6, and that it may also be adapted for earlier age groups. It suggests ways of investigating change within the Victorian period in the locality and the reasons for those changes. Children use their local area to explore characteristic features of life in the Victorian age and develop their sense of chronology, asking and answering questions from a range of sources.

Together with the Victorian Local History Resource Gallery on the CD-ROM, this chapter introduces a range of sources, including contemporary photographs, engravings and photographs taken in the present day. The chapter also provides materials to support the teaching of key historical concepts relevant to this period and theme.

Children will already have gained experience of using time-related vocabulary, asking and answering questions, and using visual and written sources. Recounting stories about the past, and looking for similarities and differences between the past and the present are prior learning activities that will have introduced relevant skills and concepts to the children before they progress to the skills and concepts in this unit. The chapter includes suggestions for the extension of these and other skills, such as recognising change and continuity and the ability to select and use information to support a discussion, for example about the reasons for changes in a local area.

Resources on the CD-ROM

Photographs and illustrations of transport forms, buildings and built environments are provided on the CD-ROM. Background information about these sources is provided in the teacher's notes, along with ideas for further work on them.

Photocopiable pages

Photocopiable resources at the end of the chapter (and also in PDF format on the CD) include:

- ▶ word and sentence cards that highlight the essential vocabulary of this topic
- ▶ guidelines for research
- ▶ a survey sheet listing features of Victorian buildings.

The teacher's notes that accompany the photocopiable pages include suggestions for developing discussion and for using the pages for whole class, group or individual activities. Some topic-specific vocabulary is included within the photocopiable texts. More able readers will be able to read and use these texts independently, but some children will need help in interpreting them.

History skills

Skills such as observation, description, the use of time-related vocabulary, sequencing, using a timeline, understanding the meaning of dates, comparing, inferring, listening, speaking, reading, writing and drawing are all involved in the activities suggested. For example, children can learn to use descriptive vocabulary to discuss the images provided on the CD.

Historical understanding

In the course of the suggested activities, a further aim is for children to develop more detailed knowledge of the past and their ability to sequence and date events independently, through their understanding of the context and content of the factual information they use. They will begin to give reasons for events and use primary sources to find further information. They will also have the opportunity to extend their skills in using descriptive language and specific time-related terms in writing their own factual accounts of the past. Communication skills of various types can be practised and developed in the course of this unit.

