



19th Century People

What can we tell from this photograph?

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Introduction

Looking at an old photograph is like looking through a window into the past. We look at the people and we wonder, 'Who are they?'

Unfortunately, photographs by themselves cannot answer this question. We have to use other sources to figure out as much as we can about the people in photographs and their lives. For example, looking at the photograph below, find out who they are, what their names are, where they live, what they do, are they rich or poor?

Do not guess. The evidence is in the sources

Tasks

Look at Source 1

1. The photograph can tell us a lot about Victorian Britain - such as what the fashions at the time were, and the size of families. We can also get an idea about how wealthy these people were
 - a) Look at the photograph. Can you find the cricket bat?
 - b) How many hats are there in the photograph?
 - c) Look carefully at the children. Count how many are boys and how many are girls.
 - d) Do you think these were wealthy people? Give your reasons why you think that.
 - e) How old do you think the children are in the photograph?
 - f) In what ways are the children's clothes different to those worn today?
 - g) Do you think all the children belong to this one family?

Look at Source 2

2. To find out more we can look at a census return. Source 2 is the actual census form which was filled in for James Lillywhite on census night 1891. Study the heading for each column carefully.
 - a) Find James and his family on the Census.
 - b) What did James Lillywhite do for a living?
 - c) What was the name of his wife?
 - d) How many children did he have? Does this number match up with the photograph?
 - e) Put names to the faces.
 - f) This census was taken in 1891, work out what the childrens ages were in 1887 - how does this compare to what you thought in question 1?
 - g) Why is there a cricket bat in the photograph?
 - h) Did they have servants?
 - i) Which source would be more valuable for finding out about this family?

Background

Photography was invented in the 1820's, with the first photographs taking up to 8 hours per exposure. As photography evolved, images were taken onto plates of glass which would then be turned into photographs. This was a long and expensive process, and because of this, family photographs were mainly reserved for the rich upper classes. In 1884 however, technology evolved enough to allow photographers to use film in their cameras rather than photographic plates, reducing the cost and allowing more people to have photographs taken. Photographs can be a useful source when looking for information about people. They can give us an idea of how people lived, although we have to consider why the photograph was taken in the first place. Families would not have had their own cameras, instead, they would have to sit for a photographer who would take the image for them.

James Lillywhite, the gentleman in the photograph, was best known as the first ever captain of the English cricket team, although he also went on to become an umpire and umpired all the test matches between Australia and England in the 1881 - 82 season.

He came from a well known cricketing dynasty, his uncle was Fredrick Lillywhite, one of the most famous cricketers in the country, and his cousins were also heavily involved in the sport, either by playing, or as cricketing outfitters. His cousin Fred Lillywhite owned a cricketing outfitters warehouse near Euston Square in London, and this was the forerunner of the famous Lillywhites sports stores.

The census return also gives us a great deal of information. Not only does it tell us about James and his family, but by looking at the occupations of his neighbours, we can get an idea of what kind of an area he lived in. A national census is taken every ten years, and the first one was taken in 1801. Everyone in Great Britain is counted on the same night. We fill in our own census forms today, but in Victorian times a census enumerator called at every house and filled in the census forms for them.

Teachers Notes

Photographs have immediate visual impact and natural curiosity leads everyone to think 'Who were these people? What were they called?' The exercise aims to give pupils the opportunity to use 2 historical sources to answer these basic questions.

Photographs

As well as examining the contents of the photograph children can be directed to think about the problems associated with this type of historical source. The camera does lie in several ways. Children need to be encouraged to find out why a photograph was taken, the circumstances and if the contents are misleading in any way.

Census Records

If the children are using census material for the first time, it will be helpful to let them become familiar with the layout and the sort of information it contains. They can be given the following questions.

- How many people are in the house?
- Who is the head of house?
- Are the people all from one family?
- How many children are there?
- What are the children's names?
- How old are the children?
- How old are they?
- Where were the people born?

Work with census records can be extended further by creating an activity where the children compare a middle-class household with working-class one. Types of occupation can be discussed (especially those that no longer exist today), and numbers of people living at the same house, servants, working class women, family size, and working children. A number of further enquiries can be made when census sheets for streets or parts of a local area are used. For example:

- What sort of work was done by most people who lived in this area?
- Were these people mainly poor or wealthy?
- Did most of these people grow up here or did they move in from somewhere else?

Sources

Source 1 - COPY 1/382

Source 2 - RG 12/844

Schemes of Work

What was it like for children living in Victorian Britain?

Key Stage 1 & 2 Unit 11

How did life change in our locality in Victorian times?

Key Stage 1 & 2 Unit 12

Source 1 : A photograph taken in 1887 (COPY 1/382)



Source 2 : Census return for James Lillywhite, 1891 (RG 12/844)

Administrative County of <u>West Sussex</u>					The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the					Page 12						
Civil Parish of <u>Westhampnett</u>		Municipal Borough of _____		Municipal Ward of _____		Urban Sanitary District of _____		Town or Village or Hamlet of <u>Westerton</u>		Rural Sanitary District of <u>Westhampnett</u>		Parliamentary Division of <u>South Eastern</u>		Ecclesiastical Parish or District of <u>Westhampnett</u>		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES Inhabited (U.S. or (B))	Number of rooms (U.S. or (B))	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of	Male	Female	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	Employed	Employed	Employed	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf-and-Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lunatic, Imbecile or Idiot.	
69		1	11	James Lillywhite	Head	M	47			Professional Artist		X		Worcester Westhampnett		
				Ada M	Wife	M	44			Unemployed				Birmingham		
				Clara M	Daughter	F	15			Student				Westhampnett		
				John	Son	M	13									
				James	Son	M	11									
				William F	Son	M	9									
				William G	Son	M	7									
				Sydney J	Son	M	5									
				Ada M	Daughter	F	4									
70		1	1	Arthur Jeffries	Head	M	74			Gardener				Barnwood, Bradford		
				Elizabeth	Wife	M	72							Latt Hill		
				Ann	Servant	F	62			Domestic Servant				Brayford		
71		1	1	Charles Dickson	Head	M	57			General Carpenter		X		Prembly, W. R.		
				Edith M	Daughter	F	23							Westhampnett		
72		1	1	Fredrick Phillips	Head	M	72			Domestic Servant				Wingston		
				Caroline	Wife	M	71									
				Fredrick	Son	M	20									
				Thomas	Son	M	17									
73		1	1	Fredrick Khan	Head	M	61			Domestic Servant				Coldwaltham		
				Isabelle F	Wife	M	59							Selby		
				Caroline	Daughter	F	11							Coldwaltham		
				Fredrick	Son	M	7									
				George	Son	M	5									
				William	Son	M	3							Houghton		
				Frank	Son	M	2									
				Arthur J	Son	M	1							Westhampnett		
74	Total of Houses and of Tenements with less than Five Rooms ...	5	1	Total of Males and Females...											17	9

NOTE.—Draw the pen through such of the words of the headings as are inappropriate.

Source 2 : Transcript of Census return for James Lillywhite, 1891 (RG 12/844)

