

Queen Victoria at Windsor Castle

Information and Answers

This sheet gives interesting facts and answers as you follow the trail. If you have any queries or need to ask for directions, the wardens in the Castle and the stewards in St George's Chapel will be happy to help.

1

THE NORTH TERRACE

The building you can see below is the Windsor and Eton Riverside train station which was opened in 1851. The station had to be designed very carefully because it could be seen from the Castle. The grand arches along the side of the building, now with large blue doors, open directly onto the platform and were built to allow the cavalry to ride through on horseback.

The coming of the railways meant that people could travel quickly from one part of the country to another for the first time. For those who could afford it, day trips became a popular leisure activity. From 1848, when Queen Victoria opened the State Apartments to the public, many people visited Windsor.

2

THE STATE APARTMENTS

The Grand Vestibule

The Latin words on the statue of Queen Victoria mean '*Queen*' and '*Empress*'. These initials can also be found on the carved wooden fire surround.

By the end of Queen Victoria's reign Britain ruled over or controlled more than 100 different countries and territories. Many places all around the world were named after her, such as the State of Victoria in Australia, Lake Victoria in Tanzania and Kenya, Victoria Falls in Zambia and Zimbabwe, Mount Victoria in Papua New Guinea, and even Empress in Alberta, Canada.

The Waterloo Chamber

The carpet here is 24m long and 12m wide. It was made for Queen Victoria by Indian prisoners in Agra. At the time of the 1992 fire it took 50 soldiers to move it to safety.

The King's Drawing Room

Queen Victoria and Prince Albert had nine children and Windsor Castle was one of their favourite family homes. A stage was set up in the bay window in this room and the family enjoyed plays and concerts here.

The King's Bedchamber

The coat of arms of the Emperor and Empress of France shows an eagle, which is the heraldic symbol of power and has been used by emperors, kings and noblemen for hundreds of years.

During their visit to the Castle in 1855, the Emperor was invested as a Knight of the Garter. The dubbing ceremony took place in the Garter Throne Room which you will see towards the end of your tour. This room is used by our Queen for the same purpose today. In St George's Hall later on, you will see the coats of arms of all the Knights of the Garter, past and present.

The Queen's Ballroom

Before electricity, candles were used to light the chandeliers inside the Castle. They were even used to decorate the royal Christmas tree! The first room in the Castle to be converted to electricity was the Waterloo Chamber in 1896, where you saw the enormous carpet.

Lots of objects we use nowadays were developed during Queen Victoria's reign. Victorian inventions we take for granted today include the can opener (1855), the vacuum cleaner (1889) and the London Underground (Metropolitan Line opened in 1863).

St George's Hall

Banquets and Feasts

Rich and poor people ate different types of food in Victorian times. The rich could afford to have fresh bread made for them every day. If you were poor you might only be able to afford one small loaf a week, sometimes having to eat it when it had gone stale or mouldy!

If you lived in a Victorian workhouse, you were given bread and cheese, gruel (a bit like porridge) and if you were really lucky, maybe some vegetables.

Rich people in Victorian times could afford fresh food everyday. The very rich ate exotic foods imported from all over the world and had chefs who cooked the latest dishes.

Below Stairs

Being a servant in Victorian times was a difficult job. There was no running water or electricity so everything was done by hand. Servants often worked more than 15 hours a day with only half a day off a week!

The trail asks you to match up some of the Queen's servants to their jobs. Here are the answers:

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| Table Deckers | – polish and decorate the table |
| Laundry Maids | – wash and clean the linen |
| Dressers | – help the Queen to dress |
| Kitchen Maids | – help the chefs cook and clean the kitchen |
| Page of the Backstairs | – tidies the Queen's personal rooms and arranges appointments |
| Ladies in Waiting | – help the Queen with her daily duties |
| Governess | – teaches the royal children to read and write |
| Housekeeper | – manages all the housemaids and footmen |

The Grand Reception Room

During the 1992 fire the urn was too big and heavy to move. It filled up with water, causing some of the malachite veneers to fall off but has now been painstakingly restored. The ceiling in here collapsed and the walls were badly damaged. The original parquet floor survived the fire; blocks that were singed by the flames have been reversed.

3

ST GEORGE'S CHAPEL

King Leopold was Queen Victoria's maternal uncle.

Following Prince Albert's death, the Albert Memorial Chapel was created in his memory and his marble statue is at the altar end. Queen Victoria had this Chapel decorated with gold mosaic and stained glass in 1863.

Prince Albert was laid to rest at the Royal Mausoleum in the private grounds of the Castle. Following Queen Victoria's death forty years later, they were finally reunited there.

Answers to the word puzzle:

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| Leopold | – Queen Victoria's youngest son |
| Albert Victor | – one of Queen Victoria's grandsons |