

## The Darkside of the Victorians: Children on Trial

### A KS2 Citizenship and History Workshop

#### Session Aims

This is a workshop for KS2 pupils to support the study of the Victorians and Citizenship. The workshop involves children in looking at the harsh realities of Victorian society through the Victorian Justice System, and aims to provide an:

- insight into the lives of Victorians.
- understanding of the reasons behind the petty crime of that era.
- knowledge of how the criminal justice system worked in the Victorian period.

#### Workshop Outline

Was it hunger or greed? You will decide for yourselves by re-enacting the trials of four real-life Victorian Child criminals in the imposing Oxford Town Hall courtroom. Pupils will obtain an insight into the darker side of Victorian society as they look through the eyes of the Judge, Jury, Victim and Accused.

#### How does the day work?

The trial is facilitated by a member of the Museum of Oxford team although teachers are expected to control behaviour and attention. It is held in the Court Room of Oxford's Town Hall, and the Museum of Oxford staff will meet your group there.



## Outline of the Cases

The names and facts of each of the cases used in Victorian Children on Trial are real. Below is essential information on each child, including the sentence they received for their crime. All the cases will be heard in quick succession on the same morning/ afternoon. Only after all the cases are heard will the jury retire to reach its verdict on each one. In the Victorian period, it was common for trials to be conducted in this manner.



Julia Ann Crumpling, aged 7, accused of stealing a perambulator.

Rosa Halliday, aged 12, accused of stealing cheese, tea, calico, flannel, and other articles by false pretences at Witney.

William Merriman, aged 16, accused of stealing a gold ring and gold watch from rooms at the University of Oxford.

Robert Henry Honey, aged 14, accused of stealing a knife of the value of 2 shillings and sixpence at Nettlebed.

## Workshop costs

The workshop is 1.5 hours long and includes an option of visiting the museum for 30 minutes. The visit costs £4 per student, with a minimum charge of £75 per session. Maximum number of pupils per session is 34. Supervising adults are free of charge.

We charge £5 to raise an invoice and £10 for 30 min lunchroom hire should you require one.

## How to book

Email the Museum: [museum@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:museum@oxford.gov.uk)

Call the Museum: 01865 252334

Finally, you can visit our website for more information: <https://museumofoxford.org/>