

The Victorians

People and Places

William Hesketh Lever collected many different objects, including Victorian pictures. Lever always wanted to create his own art gallery and in 1913 he began plans to build the Lady Lever Art Gallery. Victorian artists painted portraits, landscapes, story pictures and everyday scenes.

Did you know?

Portraits can show us what people looked like. They can be paintings, sculptures, drawings or even photographs. Can you think of any portraits you have in your home?

Landscapes are pictures that show a scene in nature. They are painted, drawn or photographed from a single spot, but can show a large amount of space and create the illusion of distance.

Find examples of a portrait and a landscape in the gallery!



In the main hall, find the portraits of William Hesketh Lever and Mrs. Lever. Lever asked the artist to paint these portraits, this is known as a 'commission', in exchange for a fee.

Look carefully at the portraits.

What is Lever holding?



What is Mrs. Lever holding?

From looking at this portrait of Lever, circle the words below you think describe his personality:

Pompous Generous Kind
Business-like Intelligent Young Boring
Serious Happy Mean

William Hesketh Lever and Mrs. Lever by Samuel Luke Fildes



The Black Brunswicker by Millais

Find *The Black Brunswicker*. This is a picture that tells a story. It shows a young German soldier and a pretty English woman.

Did you know?

Artists often used models for their paintings. John Everett Millais asked Kate Dickens, the daughter of the famous Victorian writer Charles Dickens, who wrote *A Christmas Carol* and *The Tale of Two Cities*, to model for this picture.

What do you think their relationship was?

Why does she have her hand on the doorknob?

Look at the young woman's dress and notice how it is painted. **What kind of fabric do you think it is made from?** Circle your answer:

Velvet	Cotton	Silk
Acrylic	Wool	



The Last Muster by Herkomer (LL3627)

Find the painting called *The Last Muster* in the gallery.

This painting shows Chelsea pensioners in the chapel of the Royal Hospital in London. The old soldier in the second row is holding the wrist of the man next to him. **What do you think has just happened?** Circle your answer:

- a) He has fainted
- b) He has fallen asleep
- c) He has died

The artist first made a drawing that appeared in *The Graphic* an illustrated Victorian weekly magazine.

Do you think the colour in the painting makes the picture more interesting? Why or why not?



Boulter's Lock by Edward John Gregory

Find this painting of a Sunday afternoon outing in the gallery.

Artists often used family and friends as models for their paintings, but also did self portraits. Edward John Gregory painted himself in this picture.



Where is the artist in the painting?

What is he holding?

Boulter's Lock was on the River Thames 30 miles west of London in Berkshire. This picture shows boating parties in this scenic part of the river at the end of 19th century.

How many boats can you find?

Which boat would you like to travel on and why?

Look at the beautiful clothes worn in the painting. Victorian ladies often carried parasols to shield themselves from the sun. **Decorate your own parasol below:**





Queen Victoria in Robes of State by Wilkie

Find this painting of Queen Victoria in the gallery.

This is a portrait of Queen Victoria that was painted at Windsor Castle one of her homes. The painting was not liked by art critics or the Queen and it is possible that it does not show Queen Victoria as she really looked.

Complete the following:

Queen Victoria was crowned in _____ . In this painting, _____ is wearing the _____ of state. The _____ sitting on the _____ was worn at her coronation.

Queen Victoria does not appear very powerful in the painting, but she still looks very elegant. What can you see in the painting that shows her wealth?

How many crowns do you see in this painting?

Draw a crown you would like to wear here: