Windsor Castle is the oldest and largest castle in the world which is still lived in today. It has been a royal castle for more than 900 years and is now one of our Queen’s favourite homes.

Queen Victoria spent lots of time here at the Castle. It was a favourite family home, a place of business for important Royal duties, a palace to entertain guests and a place of work for her servants.

Follow the trail to find out more about Queen Victoria and discover what life was like at the Castle during her 63-year reign.

This activity trail will help me to

- **discover** what life was like at Windsor Castle for Queen Victoria, her family and her servants,
- **find out** more about life in Victorian times.
This activity trail takes you to:

- The North Terrace
- The State Apartments
- St George’s Chapel

You can visit the first two of these, then St George’s Chapel, or the other way around.

Use the map to help you find your way – or ask a warden. If the adult with you reads the information sheet as you go, you’ll find out lots more fascinating facts!

The North Terrace

At the bottom of the steep cliff look for the building with the large blue doors. What has been written on the side of the building that tells us this was built in Victorian times?

Can you guess what this building is?

Clue! It was built with a royal platform for Queen Victoria to use when she travelled to London.

1837
Victoria becomes Queen, aged 18, on 27 June.

1840 – 1849
Marriage to Prince Albert 1840.
The State Apartments

There are lots of reminders of Queen Victoria inside the Castle. Tick the boxes as you find them.

The Grand Staircase

As you make your way up the Grand Staircase imagine Queen Victoria waiting to greet you at the top. When kings and queens from other countries visited the Castle she walked down the stairs to greet them but for all other guests she stood at the top and let them come to her.

The Grand Vestibule

[ ] Look out for the statue of Queen Victoria with her collie, Sharp. Sharp was one of 88 dogs the Queen had during her lifetime.

Queen Victoria was not just Queen of Great Britain, she also ruled over more than 100 different countries around the globe. Together all of these places were known as the British Empire.

One of the most important countries in the British Empire was India, and in 1877 Queen Victoria was given the title of Empress of India.

[ ] Look again at Queen Victoria’s statue, can you see the words which have been carved into the marble beneath her feet?

*Regina* and *Imperatrix* are Latin words. What do you think they mean? Ask a warden if you need help.

Where else in the room can you see the initials V.R.I.?
The Grand Vestibule (continued)

In this room there are many carved wooden display cases which contain items from all around the world. Some of these objects were given to Queen Victoria as gifts.

Which of Queen Victoria’s gifts do you like the most?

Draw a picture of it here.

Can you find?
- an Inca crown
- an Ethiopian crown
- a Thai crown

The King’s Bedchamber

Make your way to the King’s Bedchamber and find the magnificent four-poster bed.

If you were a servant working for Queen Victoria at the Castle would you have slept in a bed like this? The beautiful green and purple curtains around the bed were made for the Empress Eugénie of France, who stayed in this room when she visited Queen Victoria in 1855.

Look closely at the end of the bed, what can you see?
- Eagle
- Robin
- Bat

Clue! This large bird is part of the coat of arms of the Emperor and Empress of France and is a symbol of power.

1870 – 1879
Education Act passed 1870.
Factory Act passed 1874.
Electric light bulb invented.

1880 – 1889
Queen Victoria celebrates her
Golden Jubilee 1887.
Electric street lighting introduced.
The Queen’s Ballroom

As you walk into the Queen’s Ballroom look up at the beautiful glass chandeliers. These were put into this room by Queen Victoria and today are powered by electricity.

New technology

The electric light bulb was invented in 1879, but not many people, including Queen Victoria, were able to use electricity in their homes until much later.

Without electricity, what was used to light Queen Victoria’s chandeliers?

(Fill in the missing letters to find out) __ N __ E __

The Victorians were very inventive people and lots of new gadgets and machines were first used in Victorian times.

As you explore the Castle can you spot any of the following objects first used in Victorian times that we still use today?

- Telephone
- Car
- Bicycle
- Post Box
- Camera

Queen Victoria at Windsor Castle

On the death of Prince Albert, Queen Victoria commissioned this tiny diamond crown to wear on top of her widow’s veil.

Can you find her wearing this crown?

1890 – 1899

Queen Victoria celebrates her Diamond Jubilee 1897.

Education made free for all 5–13 year olds.

1901

Queen Victoria dies, aged 81, on 22 January.
St George’s Hall

Welcome to one of the most splendid rooms in the Castle!

Banquets and Feasts

Just like our Queen today, Queen Victoria held amazing banquets and feasts in here.

Imagine what this room would look like set up for a dinner for 160 people. What kinds of food do you think Queen Victoria’s guests ate at her banquets? What sort of food was eaten by poor people? The menu shows some ideas.

Menu

Bread
Roast Beef
Jelly
Broth
Cheese
Vegetables

Below Stairs

Whenever Queen Victoria stayed at Windsor Castle, she brought lots of servants with her who worked very hard to look after her, her family and her guests.

In 1881 the Queen had 123 servants working below stairs at the Castle, including 34 housemaids and 14 footmen.

Here is a list of some of the other servants who worked here for Queen Victoria at this time. Can you match the servants to the jobs?

Table Deckers

Wash and clean the linen
Teaches the royal children to read and write
Help the Queen with her daily duties
Manages all the housemaids and footmen
Help the chefs cook and clean the kitchen
Polish and decorate the table
Help the Queen to dress
Tidies the Queen’s personal rooms and arranges appointments

Laundry Maids

Dressers

Kitchen Maids

Page of the Backstairs

Ladies in Waiting

Governess

Housekeeper

The room contains one of the world’s largest stone urns. It is decorated with a precious Russia, Tsar Nicholas I in 1839. The Grand Reception Room was designed for Queen Victoria’s Throne Room, Garter Throne Room. Queen Victoria used this room as her main Throne Room, where she met important visitors. Queen Victoria sat here, undisturbed, to watch services in the Quire below. This beautiful room was designed for Queen Victoria’s uncle, King George IV. Notice how the gold colour on the wall shimmers in the light. This is not just paint, but a very thin layer of real gold! The portrait was painted to celebrate her Coronation in 1953. The beautiful malachite. It is decorated with a precious type of green stone called malachite. It is decorated with a precious type of green stone called malachite.

To the left of the altar can you see the wooden oriel window (one that stands out from the wall)? It was from here in 1863 that she watched the marriage of her son Albert Edward (later King Edward VII) to Princess

Find the statue of King Leopold. He was married to Queen Victoria until his death. We hope you enjoyed your visit...
The Grand Reception Room

This beautiful room was designed for Queen Victoria’s uncle, King George IV. Notice how the gold colour on the wall shimmers in the light. This is not just paint, but a very thin layer of real gold!

The room contains one of the world’s largest stone urns.

Have you spotted it yet?

This urn was given to Queen Victoria as a gift by the King of Russia, Tsar Nicholas I in 1839. It is decorated with a precious type of green stone called malachite.

If you were given this urn as a gift, what do you think you would use it for?

Garter Throne Room

Queen Victoria used this room as her main Throne Room, where she met important visitors.

If you look carefully you may be able to see Queen Victoria in this room.

Write down where you think she is .............................................

Can you find the painting of our Queen in this room?

The portrait was painted to celebrate her Coronation in 1953. The beautiful diamond necklace and earrings were made for Queen Victoria in 1858, and have been worn by every British Queen since then.
**St George’s Chapel** (closed on Sundays)

There is more evidence of Queen Victoria and her family in the Chapel. Ask the stewards to help you find your way around.

**King Leopold of the Belgians**

☐ Find the statue of King Leopold. He was married to the daughter of King George IV, who would have become Queen, instead of Victoria, if she had not sadly died in childbirth in 1817. Leopold became a trusted advisor to Queen Victoria until his death.

Read the plaque underneath his statue. Fill in the missing letters to find out how Leopold was related to Queen Victoria

M __ __ R __ __ L __ __ N __ __ L __ __

**Oriel Window**

☐ To the left of the altar can you see the wooden oriel window (one that stands out from the wall)? Queen Victoria sat here, undisturbed, to watch services in the Quire below.

It was from here in 1863 that she watched the marriage of her son Albert Edward (later King Edward VII) to Princess Alexandra of Denmark.

**Albert Memorial Chapel**

On 14 December 1861 Queen Victoria’s husband, Prince Albert, died at Windsor Castle from typhoid fever, a disease caught by drinking infected water.

This chapel was designed in memory of Prince Albert and is decorated in marble, gold, jewels and stained glass.

Prince Albert was never buried here, but the tombs you can see belong to other members of Queen Victoria’s family.

Complete the word puzzle to find out who they are. *(If it is busy you will need to do this outside!)*

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ E T

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ I O R D

We hope you enjoyed your visit ... and discovered lots of new things about Queen Victoria at Windsor Castle.