

Introduction

You have been reading Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. In the novel, you may have encountered many references to Victorian England that may appear strange to you, such as Plum Pudding, Smoking Bishop, bed-curtains, and various social customs.

Task

You will explore different aspects of *A Christmas Carol*, the life of Charles Dickens, Victorian customs, and social practices to help gain a better appreciation of the story. This will help you with your understanding.

Process

1. Read the questions below, and go to the corresponding website to find the answer.
2. As you find the correct information, write out your answers in your own words.

Questions

Click on the following link: <https://www.charlesdickensinfo.com/life/timeline/>

1. What was the date of Charles Dickens' birth?
2. How long was Dickens in a relationship with Maria Beadnell?
3. What famous story(ies) did Dickens write in 1843?

Go to the following link: <http://charlesdickenspage.com/christmas.html> (scroll to Tiny Tim's Ailment)

4. In the book, Tiny Tim has to walk with a crutch, although the story never specifically says why. What illness does Tiny Tim have? Was it curable?
5. Look on the right of the website. Smoking Bishop and Plum Pudding are two of the foods mentioned in *A Christmas Carol*. Explain what these foods are. What are some of the main ingredients? What did they make them in? Would you want to try them?

Go to the following link: http://charlesdickenspage.com/dickens_london_map.html

6. What real life person and what *A Christmas Carol* character lived in Camden Town? (click on Camden for answer)
7. Scrooge's business is in an area of London known as The City. His employee, Bob, had to pass Cornhill and walk home to Camden Town. Locate those places on the map.

Go to the following site: <http://charlesdickenspage.com/carol.html>

8. Read the section titled "Fifteen Bob a Week". Scrooge pays his employee "fifteen shillings a week". What could be bought with that?

Go to: <http://www.victorianweb.org/history/poorlaw/dietwh.html>

9. Workhouses were built to house poor Victorians, who worked for a small amount of food and money. Name five foods that poor Victorians were given here.

Go to: <http://www.logicmgmt.com/1876/schoolday.htm>

10. Please read the list of 10 rules, which were found in a typical Victorian classroom. In your opinion, which rules should still be used in schools today? Explain why.

Go to: <https://friendsofoakgrovecemetery.org/victorian-funeral-customs-fears-and-superstitions/>

11. Read the first three paragraphs. Explain 3-4 of the customs Victorians observed at the time of a death.
12. Scroll down the page a bit. List 1-2 superstitions Victorians believed regarding death.

Go to: http://charlesdickenspage.com/reading_dickens.html

13. In the nineteenth century, who read Dickens?
14. Why, as we read Dickens today, is it challenging?