

Visit to Kirkgate

Key Question: What was life like for people living in Victorian York?

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| We are learning to: | What I am looking for: |
| Describe what houses in the York slums were like | The worksheet to be full of interesting details that you have seen on Kirkgate |
| Imagine how people in the slums felt about their lives | The use of adjectives to describe people’s surroundings and their feelings |
| Compare life in the slums with life in the city centre in the 1800s | Similarities and differences found between life in the slums and the city centre in the 1800s |

Fill in the table with what you can sense as you enter Kirkgate:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | What you notice |
| Touch |  |
| Hear |  |
| See |  |
| Smell |  |

Stage 1. Rowntree’s Snicket, representing the slums of York

This is to be found between Bank’s music shop and the Little Dust Pan

1. What do you first notice about the alleyway?

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1. Look at the posters on the walls. Pick one poster and complete the spider diagram below. Think about who might have made the poster, and who might have seen it, for clues.

1. Look inside the house in this alleyway. Imagine who might have lived in the house. Sketch a picture of your imaginary person inside their house (perhaps they could be eating at the table, doing chores, or going to bed). Make sure to include the furniture.

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1. Now label your drawing using adjectives to describe objects.

1. Pick one adjective to describe how the person living in this house might feel and write it here:

# Stage 2. Kirkgate, representing the centre of York

1. Go to one of the shops listed below.

Work in small groups to complete the table.

Choose an item you can see in the shop.

Who do you think might have shopped here?

What does it tell you about the sort of person that might buy it?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Shop name | Ambler’s grocer | Kendrick’s toy shop | Little Dust Pan |
| Item chosen |  |  |  |
| Implications about type of person using this shop |  |  |  |

1. Now pair up with someone that investigated a shop you didn’t go to. Help each other to fill in the blanks.

1. Go into the Cocoa House where you can watch a magic lantern show about real-life citizens of York. Fill out the short fact file here:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Job: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Details about family:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Political views (if given):

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Most interesting fact you found out about them:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Stage 3. Social Care in York

1. The pharmacy is in between the poor alleyway and the main street, just as Saville’s Chemist was in York.

What does this tell you about who the pharmacist’s customers were?

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1. Why do you think this is?

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1. Discuss in pairs.

Can you see any other places on Kirkgate that poor people might have gone to get help if they needed it?

If not, why do you think this is?

Summary: Similarities and differences between the ‘slums’ and the ‘centre of York’ in the late 1800s.

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | ‘Slums’ | ‘Centre of York’ |
| Outside of buildings |  |  |
| Inside of buildings |  |  |
| What type of person would have lived / worked / shopped here |  |  |
| How much space is there? |  |  |
| Where could people living there go for help if they were in trouble? |  |  |
| Any other observations |  |  |