

Victorian Portrait Photography: Creative Writing Task

Class: Primary 4-5

Subject: English/Social Studies

Duration: 45mins

Lesson Focus and Goals:

- Learn about some of the ways photography was used in the past
- Understand what the lives of people were like in the Victorian era
- Understand that the town of St Andrews has changed over time

Materials Needed:

- Creative writing prompt
- Prizes (if making exercise into a competition)

CfE Learning Points:

- By considering the type of text I am creating, I can select ideas and relevant information, organise these in a logical sequence and use words which will be interesting and/or useful for others. LIT 1-26a
- I can compare aspects of people's daily lives in the past with my own by using historical evidence or the experience of recreating an historical setting. SOC 1-04a

Teacher Notes:

- Before completing this task, it will be useful background to have a look at the lesson on our website titled 'What can we learn from Victorian Portrait Photography'. The lesson 'Using Maps to Understand How St Andrews Has Changed' (also on our website) may also be useful.
- Writing should be marked based on creativity of adjectives used as well as how new knowledge of Victorian portrait photography and how St Andrews has changed over time has been applied.

Background Information:

- The Heddle family – A St Andrews family who had this family portrait taken in around 1880.
- Matthew Heddle is the father of the family and was a professor of chemistry at St Andrews University. He was aged 52 in the photo.
- Mary Jane Heddle is the mother of the family and had 10 children with Matthew, some of whom are in the photo. She was aged 49 in the photo.
- Youngest children are:
 - Catherine Heddle (Daughter), aged 6
 - Stuart Heddle (Son), aged 9
- Pupils can choose to write about any of these people.

Discussion Questions:

- Brainstorm suggestions of things to write about (related to prompt).

Activity Instructions:

- Using the prompt pupils should write a diary entry, pretending to be one of the members of the Heddle family after getting their photo taken.
- Pupils will vary in ability so they should write as much as they can within the time given.

