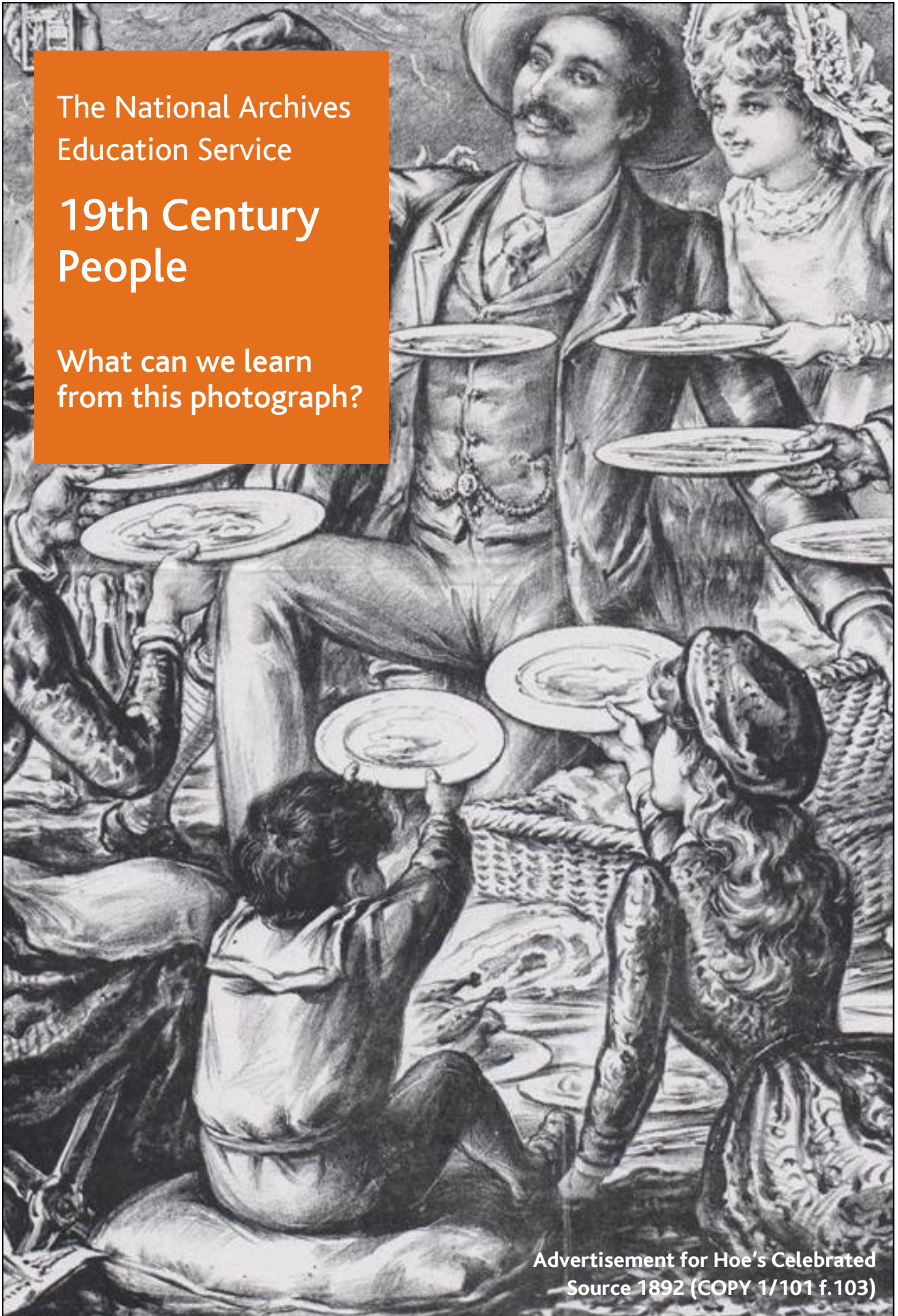


The National Archives  
Education Service

## 19th Century People

What can we learn  
from this photograph?



Advertisement for Hoe's Celebrated  
Source 1892 (COPY 1/101 f.103)

# Introduction

## Lesson at a Glance

**Suitable For:** KS3

**Time Period:**

Victorians 1850-1901

**Curriculum Link:**

Ideas, political power,  
industry and empire:  
Britain 1745-1901

- Britain as the first  
Industrial nation – the  
impact on society

**Learning Objective:**

To investigate the lifestyle  
of people in the 19<sup>th</sup>  
Century

To examine a census  
record to discover  
information about a  
person

**Resources needed:**

Printed sources

## Early Photography

Looking at an old photograph is like looking through a window into the past. We look at the people and we wonder, 'Who are they?'

Unfortunately, photographs by themselves cannot answer this question. We have to use other sources to figure out as much as we can about the people in photographs and their lives.

For example, look at the photograph below and find out: who the people are; what their names are; where they live; what they do; and whether they are rich or poor. Do not guess. The evidence is in the sources.

## Contents:

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## Background

Photography was invented in the 1820s, with the first photographs taking up to 8 hours per exposure. As photography evolved, images were taken onto plates of glass which would then be turned into photographs. This was a long and expensive process, and because of this, family photographs were mainly reserved for the rich upper classes. In 1884 however, technology evolved enough to allow photographers to use film in their cameras rather than photographic plates, reducing the cost and allowing more people to have photographs taken.

Photographs can be a useful source when looking for information about people. They can give us an idea of how people lived, although we have to consider why the photograph was taken in the first place. Families would not have had their own cameras, instead, they would have to sit for a photographer who would take the image for them.

James Lillywhite, the gentleman in the photograph, was best known as the first ever captain of the English cricket team, although he also went on to become an umpire and umpired all the test matches between Australia and England in the 1881 – 82 season. He came from a well known cricketing dynasty; his uncle was Fredrick Lillywhite, one of the most famous cricketers in the country, and his cousins were also heavily involved in the sport, either by playing, or as cricketing outfitters. His cousin Fred Lillywhite owned a cricketing outfitters warehouse near Euston Square in London, and this was the forerunner of the famous Lillywhites sports stores.

The census return also gives us a great deal of information. Not only does it tell us about James and his family, but by looking at the occupations of his neighbours, we can get an idea of what kind of an area he lived in. A national census has been taken every ten years since 1801. Everyone in Great Britain is counted on the same night. We fill in our own census forms today, but in Victorian times a census enumerator called at every house and filled in the census forms for them.

## Teacher's notes

Photographs have immediate visual impact, and natural curiosity leads everyone to think 'Who were these people? What were they called?' The exercise aims to give pupils the opportunity to use two historical sources to answer these basic questions.

### Photographs

As well as examining the contents of the photograph, children can be directed to think about the problems associated with this type of historical source. The camera does lie in several ways. Children need to be encouraged to find out why a photograph was taken, the circumstances in which it was taken, and if the contents are misleading in any way.

### Census records

If the children are using census material for the first time, it will be helpful to let them become familiar with the layout and the sort of information it contains. They can be given the following questions:

How many people are in the house?

What are the children's names?

Who is the head of house?

How old are the children?

Are the people all from one family?

How old are they?

How many children are there?

Where were the people born?

Work with census records can be extended further by creating an activity where the children compare a middle-class household with working-class one. Types of occupation can be discussed (especially those that no longer exist today), and numbers of people living at the same house, servants, working class women, family size, and working children. A number of further enquiries can be made when census sheets for streets or parts of a local area are used. For example:

What sort of work was done by most people who lived in this area?

Were these people mainly poor or wealthy?

Did most of these people grow up here or did they move in from somewhere else?

### Sources

Source 1 : COPY 1/382

Source 2 : RG 12/844



## Source One

The photograph can tell us a lot about Victorian Britain – such as what the fashions at the time were, and the size of families. We can also get an idea about how wealthy these people were. Look at the photograph.



Can you find a cricket bat?

How many hats are there in the photograph?

Look carefully at the children. Count how many are boys and how many are girls.

Do you think these were wealthy people? Give your reasons why you think that.

How old do you think the children are in the photograph?

In what ways are the children's clothes different to those worn today?

Do you think all the children belong to this one family?

# Source Two

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Administrative County of Northampton

Civil Parish of Northampton Municipal Borough of Northampton Rural Sanitary District of Northampton Parliamentary Division of Northampton Ecclesiastical Parish or District of Northampton

Page 12

Col. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
No. of ROAD, STREET, etc., and No. or NAME of HOUSE Schedule	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON- DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	Employer	Employed	Married and Registered	WHERE BORN	If (1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lunatic, Imbecile or Idiot					
69	Lancey Lilly, Sub	Head	M	42	Professional Chickster	X			Northampton						
	Ada M. M.	Wife	M	38	Housewife				Northampton						
	Charles M. M.	Son	S	7	St. School				Northampton						
	John M. M.	Son	S	7					Northampton						
	Louisa M. M.	Son	S	9					Northampton						
	William F. M.	Son	S	9					Northampton						
	William F. M.	Son	S	9					Northampton						
	Sydney F. M.	Son	S	9					Northampton						
	Ada M. M.	Daughter	S	4					Northampton						
70	Arthur Jeffries	Head	M	32	Domestic servant				Southampton						
	Elizabeth M.	Wife	M	32	Barmaid				Northampton						
	John M.	Son	S	4					Northampton						
71	Charles Hindle	Head	M	32	Domestic servant				Northampton						
	Edith M.	Wife	M	32	Domestic servant				Northampton						
	Frederick Pidge	Head	M	32	Domestic servant				Northampton						
	Caroline M.	Wife	M	32	Domestic servant				Northampton						
	Frederick M.	Son	S	7					Northampton						
	Thomas M.	Son	S	7					Northampton						
	Frederick M.	Head	M	32	Domestic servant				Northampton						
	Isabella M.	Wife	M	32	Domestic servant				Northampton						
	Caroline M.	Son	S	7					Northampton						
	Frederick M.	Son	S	7					Northampton						
	George M.	Son	S	7					Northampton						
	William M.	Son	S	7					Northampton						
	Frank M.	Son	S	7					Northampton						
	Arthur M.	Son	S	7					Northampton						
5-	Total of Houses and of Tenements with less than Five Rooms ...	Total of Males and Females... 179													

Eng.—Sheet B.

# Source Two - Transcript

Administrative County of Sussex				The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the						Page 12					
Civil Parish of Westhampnett		Municipal Borough of		Municipal Ward of	Urban Sanitary District of		Town or Village or Hamlet of Westerton		Rural Sanitary District of Westhampnett	Parliamentary South Western & Chichester Division		Ecclesiastical Parish or District of Westhampnett			
Col 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
No of Schedule	STREET, &c and No, or NAME of HOUSE	Inhabited	Uninhabited (U) or Building (B)	Number of Rooms occupied if less than five	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CONDITION as to Marriage	Male	Female	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	Employer	Employed	Neither Employer nor Employed	WHERE BORN	If (1) Deaf-and-Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lunatic, Imbeciel or Idiot
		HOUSES						AGE last Birthday of							
69	/		1U		James Lillywhite	Head	M	49		Professional Cricketer		x		Sussex Westhampnett	
					Ada M "	Wife	M		46	Unemployed				" Birdham	
					Clara M "	Daur	S		15	St Scholar				Sussex Westhampnett	
					John "	Son		13		"				" "	
					James "	Son		11		"				" "	
					William F "	Son		9		"				" "	
					William G "	Son		7		"				" "	
					Sydney L "	Son		6		"				" "	
					Ada M "	Daur			4	"				" "	
70	/				Arthur Jefries	Head	M	34		Gardener Domestic Servant				" Goodwood, Boxgrove	
					Elizabeth "	Wife	M		33	"				" Salt Hill	
					Ann "	Sister	S		42	Domestic Servant				" Boxgrove	
71	/				Charles Wiscombe	Head	M	59		Carter Timber		x		" Rambolds Wyke	
					Edith M "	Daur	S		13	"				" Westhampnett	
72	/				Frederick Phillips	Head	M	56		Domestic Servant Laundry Man				" Singleton	
					Caroline "	Wife	M		47	"				" Singleton	
					Frederick "	Son	S	26		Shepherd		x		" Singleton	
					Thomas "	Son	S	17		Agricultural Labourer		x		" Singleton	
73	/				Frederick Thom	Head	M	41		Gardener Domestic Servant				" Coldwaltham	
					Isabelle F "	Wife	M		39	"				" Selsey	
					Caroline "	Daur			11	Scholar				" Coldwaltham	
					Frederick "	Son		10		"				" "	
					George "	Son		8		"				" "	
					William "	Son		5		"				" Houghton	
					Frank "	Son		3		"				" "	
					Arthur J "	Son		8 Months		"				" Westhampnett	
	Total of Homes and Tenements with less than 5 rooms	5	1												
					Total of Males and Females			17	9						