

'Becoming Royal' Lesson 2: Family Life at the Palace



Curriculum focus – History, Art and Design and Literacy – Writing a play script

Look at and discuss the pictures with the class using the Teacher's Notes. As their family continued to grow, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert had several nurseries built in Buckingham Palace; nannies, governesses and tutors were engaged to look after and educate the children.

In 1847, 100,000 people viewed this Winterhalter painting, which was exhibited in St James' Palace. Why do you think this painting was so popular? How do you think it compares with the lithograph of the children in the nursery? Discuss with a partner what you would choose to play with in the nursery.

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Writing Activities and Drama

Select pupils to take on the roles of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert and the royal children, or even the dog! Get them to recreate the scene.

Ask them to hold the pose like a freeze frame. Then ask them to imagine that they have strings attached to either their arm or leg. Choose one movement that they might make. Tell the class to make their own picture of the children in the royal nursery with moving parts and write a play script to accompany it.