

'All Change' Lesson 1: The Palace Changes



Curriculum focus – History and Literacy – Comparative writing

Before you show these images to the class, ask them to describe what Buckingham Palace looks like today and make a list what they think are the most eye-catching features (*e.g. gates, balcony, statue of Queen Victoria outside, shape of the building, colour of the stone etc.*). Show them some current pictures.

Now look at the two images with the class using the Teacher's Notes. Split the class into pairs (A+B). Ask partner A to look closely at the Joseph Nash watercolour and to choose one of the figures in the painting and suppose it was them. Tell partner B about the visit and describe what Buckingham Palace and St James's Park looks like.

B should then do the same with the second image. How does A react to their description? Do they have any questions about what has changed?

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There are only seven years' difference between the two images, yet there have been a lot of changes to the Palace. (*Marble Arch, building of the new wing and balcony, gas lamps which are still in use today, sheep grazing in the park*)

In pairs, ask pupils to note down the similarities and differences between the two pictures.

Writing Activity

This activity could be done in groups or individually. Ask the pupils to script a planners meeting with two sides to the debate. On one side demanding the 'current' design for Buckingham Palace (be retained). The other side should argue why the 'new' design/plans should be considered. Ask the class to think about which characters involved might have a say at the planners' meeting, Prince Albert, for example. What would the improvements be? What might be missed?