

Looking at buildings

Victorian buildings have features which can be used to identify them.

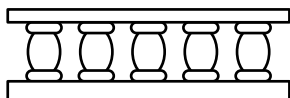
Use this sheet to identify Victorian buildings in your town centre and in streets that are away from the centre.

Town centre buildings

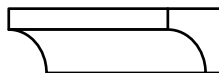
The Victorians were very fond of a type of architecture called neo gothic. Here are some neo-gothic features.



column



balustrade



cornice



pinnacle



arch



pointed arch

Which buildings in your town have these features?



Victorian terraces

Tick the appropriate boxes below.

☐

Have front doors that open straight onto the street

☐

Have a basement window

☐

Have a small garden area in front of them

☐

Have a second storey window

☐

Have bay windows

☐


Have a name plaque on the terrace

☐

Do not have bay windows

☐

Have a date plaque on the terrace

Was the terrace originally built for lower- or working-class people, lower-middle-class people or middle-class people? 

Explain your answer on the back of this sheet.

Looking at buildings

Age range

- Years 3/4 (SP4/5).
- Years 5/6 (SP6/7).

Resources

Copies of the worksheet. Access to the town centre and a street of terraced houses. Make sure that all school policies addressing school trips are followed. If access cannot be achieved, photographs of the town may be used instead.

Using the worksheet

The aim of this activity is to develop the students' observational skills. In the second part of the activity on terraced houses it is hoped that the students' knowledge can be applied to identify the class of person the houses were built for. This later part may need some sensitivity as some of the students may live in terraced houses.



You may have to move just out of the town centre to find chapels with neo-gothic features. The students should be aware that all old buildings are not necessarily Victorian, some could be even older and some built in the first two decades of the 20th century.

Younger students

Some students may need help in identifying the neo-gothic features.

Outcomes

The students can:

- Make observations on their surroundings.
- Identify architectural features.
- Make inferences from their observations.

Older students

The students could extend their work by looking at collections of old photographs of the town. These are sometimes published in books on local history. They could compare the old photographs with ones taken more recently or take the photographs themselves while on the trip to use to make the comparisons.

Outcomes

The students can:

- Make observations on their surroundings.
- Identify architectural features.
- Make inferences from their observations.
- Use old photographs to discover how the town has changed from Victorian times.