

# Making it Count



Key Stage 2 Education Workshop  
Support Notes for Teachers

## Workshop structure

The session consists of a sequence of interactive activities which will enable the pupils to learn about the currency used in Victorian Britain and Africa, participate in some mental maths, handle museum objects and engage in a role-play situation.

- \$ **Introduction:** The session opens with a general introduction to Victorian Britain and Africa. During this introduction the pupils will have the opportunity to handle coins from Victorian Britain and learn about the currency used in Britain and Africa at this time.
- \$ **Give and Take:** Using real Victorian pennies the pupils now participate in a fast and furious game of >Give and Take= as they gather the money they need for the trading activity later in the workshop.
- \$ **African Market Trading:** The next part of the session provides an opportunity for the pupils to engage in some real life trading as they take on the role of Victorian and African merchants at a trading market in west Africa. Using a mixture of British and African currency from the Victorian period, together with a variety of goods which would have been bought and sold at such a market, the pupils have to haggle and barter to get the best deals.
- \$ **Plenary:** The session closes with a chance for the pupils to talk about their best and worst deals of the day and find out a bit more about some different forms of money used around the world.

## Important Note: Object Conservation

During the course of the workshop the pupils will be handling a range of replica and real objects. Some of these objects are drawn from the collection of the Department of Coins and Medals at the British Museum. The Museum would, therefore, very much appreciate it if pupils attending the workshop could wash and dry their hands before the start of the session to help conserve the objects being handled.

As some of the handling objects are composed of metal we recommend that pupils also wash their hands after the session, particularly if they are due to go straight into their lunch break.

## **Victorian Britain and Africa**

Key themes covered by this workshop are Victorian Britain and Africa and money.

Before the day of your visit you may like to talk to the pupils about the historical background to the session covering information such as when Queen Victoria reigned and how people travelled in Victorian times.

No prior knowledge of the Victorian money system will be expected of the pupils as this is one of the areas explored during the workshop. You may, however, like to talk to the pupils about modern day money including what coin and paper note values there are, what materials modern coins are made from and what can be seen on a coin (e.g. head of the monarch, date of minting, emblems and designs).

You may like to use an atlas or world globe to locate Britain and Africa. The setting for the workshop is a trading port on the west coast of Africa.

Europeans had been trading in Africa before the Victorian period. During the Victorian period areas of Africa came under colonial rule. Colonial rule ended, in most areas of Africa, during the 1960s and 1970s. You may like to discuss the changing relationship between Britain and Africa over time.

## **African objects in the British Museum**

There are many objects from Africa on display in the British Museum.

A good starting point is the COMPASS website at [www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/compass](http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/compass) where you can search for objects from Africa in the Museum collections.

There is a children's COMPASS website at [www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/childrenscompass](http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/childrenscompass)

Below are a few key galleries which you may like to include as part of your visit.

### **Gallery 24: The African Gallery**

Objects relating to past and present cultural life in Africa.

### **Gallery 68: The Money Gallery**

African currency (Case 8, Panel 3, objects 18 - 23)

African currency (Case 9, Panel 1, objects 1 - 9)

African currency (Case 17, Panel 2, object 32)

African currency (Case 19, Panel 2, objects 1 -18)

The *Money: Resources Pack for Teachers* includes a range of activities which can be undertaken by pupils in the Money Galley (Gallery 68).

These activities are detailed in Section 4: HSBC Money Gallery Activities.

### **Follow-up activities**

The *Money: Resource Pack for Teachers* includes a range of activities which can be undertaken by pupils in school.

These activities are detailed in Section 2: Classroom Activities.

You may like to follow-up this session on Victorian Britons in Africa by thinking about people of African descent in Victorian Britain, looking at the life and work of people such as Mary Seacole (a nurse during the Crimean War) and William Cuffay (a leading member of the Chartist movement).

### **Curriculum Links**

Workshop activities cover a range of historical and mathematical concepts and link in particular to the aspects of the National Curriculum listed below.

#### **National Curriculum for History at Key Stage 2**

Programme of Study: Victorian Britain

*A study of the impact of significant individuals, events and changes in work and transport on the lives of men, women and children from different sections of society.*

#### **National Curriculum for Maths at Key Stage 2**

MA2 Number and Algebra

Knowledge, skills and understanding: Solving numerical problems

*Pupils should be taught to: choose, use and combine any of the four number operations to solve word problems involving numbers in 'real life', money or measures of length, mass, capacity or time, then perimeter and area.*

### **Contact Details**

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Please quote the reference *Making it Count Key Stage 2 School Workshop* in all enquiries.