



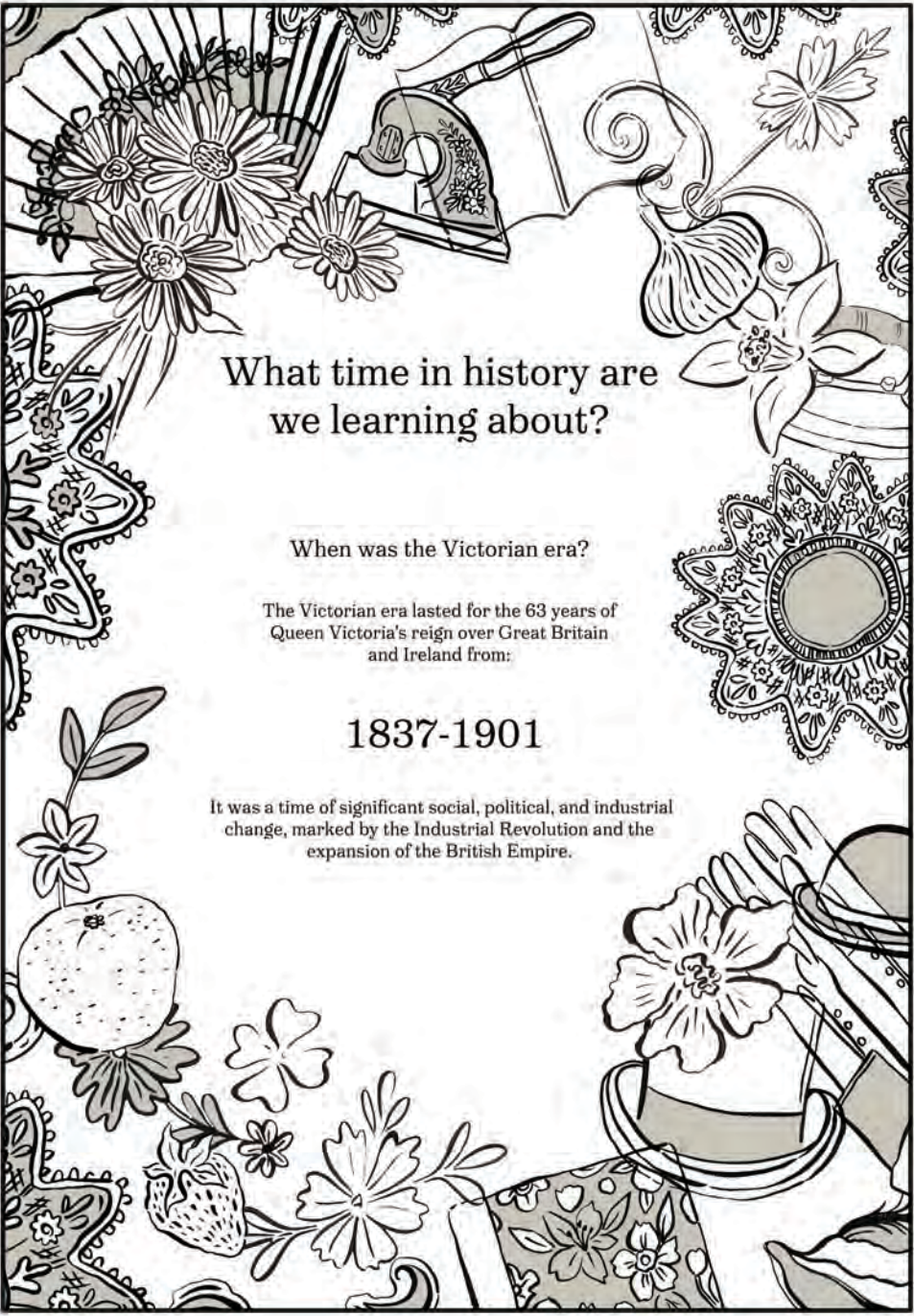
What is the Wandsworth Heritage Collection?

The Wandsworth Heritage Collection is a special group of historical items that help tell the story of the Wandsworth area. These items used to be part of the Wandsworth Museum, which closed in 2025. Today, the collection includes around 14,000 objects, such as:

- Paintings and watercolours showing scenes from around Wandsworth
- Archaeological finds from ancient times
- Old photographs, films, and documents
- Clothing, textiles, and furniture
- Decorative art and everyday items from the past

These objects help us learn about the social and industrial history of Wandsworth — from the Neolithic period (thousands of years ago!) all the way to the 2000s. Each item has a connection to the people, places, and events that shaped the borough over time.





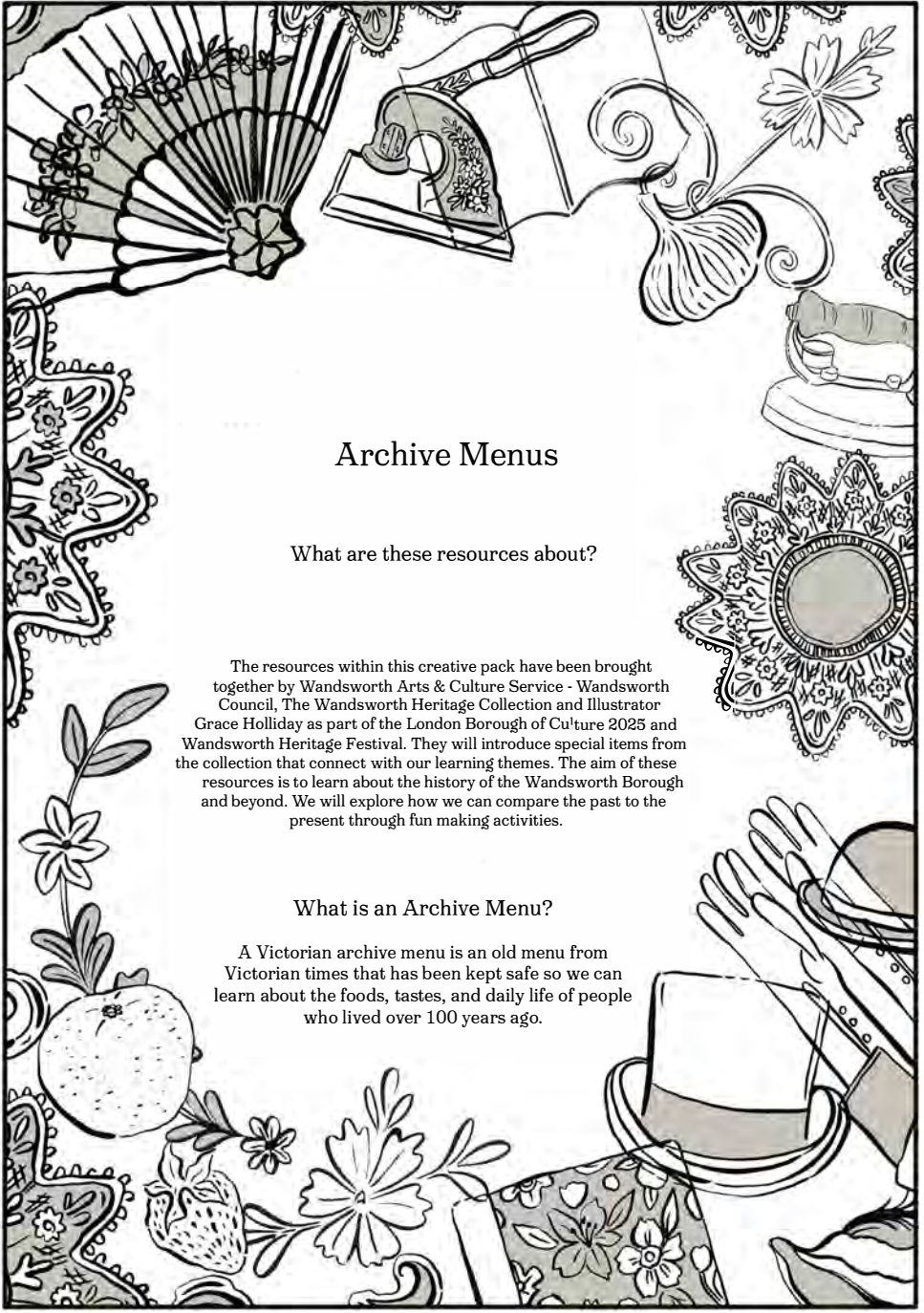
What time in history are
we learning about?

When was the Victorian era?

The Victorian era lasted for the 63 years of
Queen Victoria's reign over Great Britain
and Ireland from:

1837-1901

It was a time of significant social, political, and industrial
change, marked by the Industrial Revolution and the
expansion of the British Empire.



Archive Menus

What are these resources about?

The resources within this creative pack have been brought together by Wandsworth Arts & Culture Service - Wandsworth Council, The Wandsworth Heritage Collection and Illustrator Grace Holliday as part of the London Borough of Cu'ture 2025 and Wandsworth Heritage Festival. They will introduce special items from the collection that connect with our learning themes. The aim of these resources is to learn about the history of the Wandsworth Borough and beyond. We will explore how we can compare the past to the present through fun making activities.

What is an Archive Menu?

A Victorian archive menu is an old menu from Victorian times that has been kept safe so we can learn about the foods, tastes, and daily life of people who lived over 100 years ago.



Food Facts

How Were Menus Changing?

Victorian menus changed a lot during the 1800s. New foods and flavours from different countries became more popular.

Dishes such as curry began appearing on some menus meaning that different cultures could share and celebrate recipes with the community. More restaurants, cafés, and street food stalls also opened locally.

People could buy snacks such as fish, pies, baked potatoes, sandwiches, and roasted chestnuts from street sellers. By the end of the Victorian era, people were becoming more interested in healthy eating and learning about nutrition.

Victorian Nutrition in Wandsworth

Wandsworth was growing quickly during Victorian times as more people moved to London. Many families in Wandsworth worked in factories, shops, markets, and along the River Thames. Working families often ate simple meals made from bread, potatoes, vegetables, and occasionally meat. Markets and local shops helped people buy fresh food, although this was still a luxury. As railways expanded through south London, more food could be brought into Wandsworth from farms around the country opening up choice and selection.

The famous Wandsworth Prison that opened in 1851 has records that show people were often given very simple meals, helping historians learn about the diets of Victorians in different situations.

Summary

Victorian Londoners ate very different foods depending on their wealth. During the Victorian era, menus became more varied as transport improved and new foods arrived from around the world. In Wandsworth, many families ate simple, filling meals, but growing transport links and local markets gradually gave people access to a wider range of foods.



What is your favourite food to eat today?

Would the Victorian's have eaten this food?

How can food symbolise us as an individual or part of a community?

Bring these foods to life with colour ...

Can you label the food
with their names?

Do you have any
favourites?

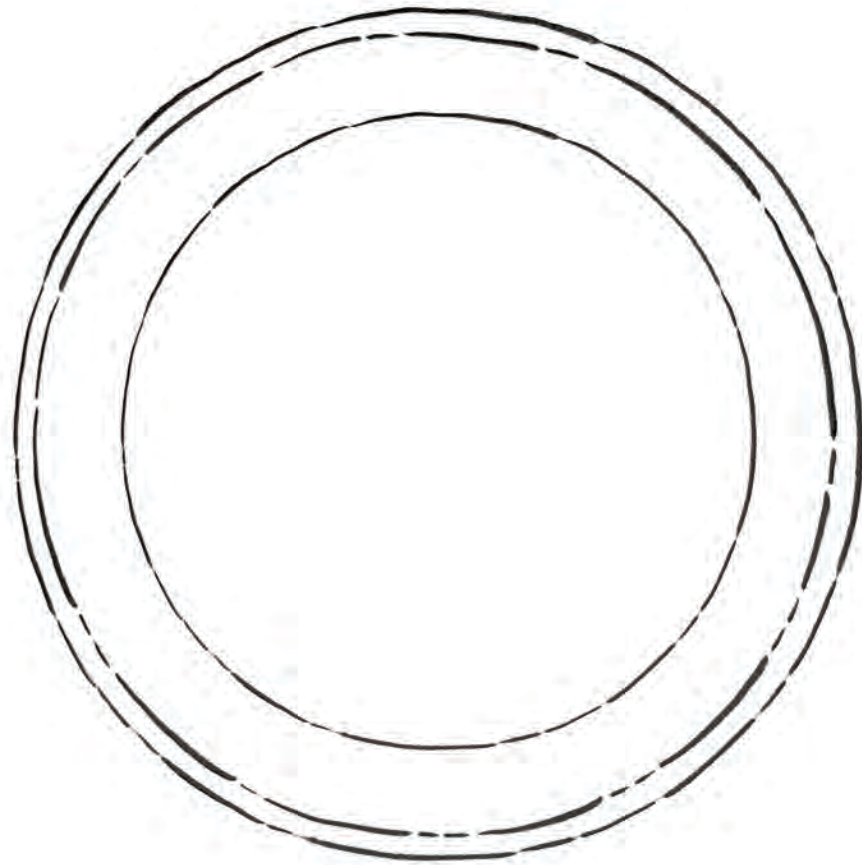


Picture Plates

Can you fill the plate with drawings of your favourite foods?

Is there anything unusual on your menu?

Where is your favourite place to eat?



Wandsworth Heritage Collection Gallery:

A selection of photos bringing together the objects and artefacts from the collection that inspired these illustrated resources and creative tasks. Each item has its very own story to tell!

What will we discover?



Translation of Scrapbook Menu:

- Thon à l'Huile - Saucisson d'Arles - Olives Tuna in oil, Arles sausage, olives
- Brunoise au Tapioca - Vegetable soup with tapioca
- Purée Portugaise - Portuguese-style puréed soup
- Barbe Joinville - Red mullet fish, Joinville style
- Whitebait - Small fried fish (whitebait)
- Escalopes de Ris-de-Veau à la Châtelaine - Veal sweetbreads with vegetables, chateau style
- Poulet à la Vernay - Chicken, Vernay style
- Selle de Mouton de Galles - Saddle of Welsh mutton (roast sheep meat)
- Épinards à la Crème - Creamed spinach
- Pommes de Terre Bernoise - Bernese-style potatoes
- Oison Rôti à l'Anglaise - Roast gosling (young goose), English style
- Salade - Salad
- Gelée Macédoine - Fruit jelly with mixed fruit
- Bombe Métropole - A special Hotel Métropole iced dessert (similar to an elaborate ice cream bombe)
- Croquettes de Dames - Sweet lady's croquettes (a dessert pastry)
- Dessert Fresh fruit, nuts, and sweets
- Café Noir - Black coffee