



## Stop 5: June Stories from the Big House

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# Factfile

## Stories from the Big House

Big Houses were mansions owned by the rich and powerful. The wealthy family who lived in them were often aristocrats whose ancestors had lived in the same house for centuries!



Badminton House, West Front (c)

Many Big Houses had over 100 rooms!



Some servants started work in the Big House as young as 8-10 years old!





The houses often had several generations of the same family living under the same roof at the same time. This included grandparents, parents, children and extended family.



The house was run by servants, who often lived in the house. Their bedrooms were in the attic which was hot in the summer and freezing in the winter!



The owners frequently held lavish parties. Sir Christopher Codrington's 21st birthday in March 1826 was 5 days long and cost £13,000!

## Draw a picture of your house





## Factfile

# People who lived in Big Houses

The owners of Big Houses were wealthy and sometimes had titles such as Lord, Lady, Earl, Duke and Duchess. Often, several generations of family lived in the large house, including grandparents, parents, children and extended family.



**The larger the house, the more people were employed to work there.**



Housekeepers, cooks and butlers were senior staff who ran the house.



Nannies, maids, valets and footmen also helped in the house.

**Head gardeners, stable masters and gamekeepers ran the outdoor areas**



Here is a picture of just some of the people who worked at the Dodington estate, South Gloucestershire, in 1890. These men worked in the gardens and park.



How old do you think the two boys at the front were?



Many of the people who worked in the Big House, also lived there. There were special servants' rooms, normally on the top level of the house. These were small and often shared. Whereas the family lived in large and lavish rooms.



# Who worked at Buckingham Palace in 1841?

This is a census return for Buckingham Palace in 1841, when Queen Victoria was living there. A census is when a government gathers information about its population, by sending out a form to be filled in by each household.

Buckingham Palace is one of the largest Royal Palaces in the world. It has been lived in by the Royal Family since 1761. The Palace has 775 rooms and its garden is the largest private garden in London!



How many people do you think are needed to look after it? What jobs would they do?

Name of the Institution <i>Buckingham Palace</i>				
NAMES of each Person who abode therein on the Night of Sunday, June 6th.	Age of Males.	Age of Females.	OCCUPATION. if any.	Where Born
				Whether Born in same County. Whether Born in Scotland, Ireland, or Foreign Parts.
<i>The Queen</i>		<i>20</i>	<i>J</i>	<i>Y</i>
<i>Lt. Genl. Prince Albert</i>	<i>20</i>		<i>J</i>	<i>Y</i>
<i>The Princess Royal</i>		<i>6 months</i>	<i>J</i>	<i>Y</i>
<i>Earl of Abeyne</i>	<i>45</i>		<i>Lord in Waiting</i>	<i>N</i>
<i>George Thos. Koppel</i>	<i>40</i>		<i>Groom in Waiting</i>	<i>Y</i>
<i>Edward Proctorius</i>	<i>30</i>		<i>Secretary to L. G. Prince Albert</i>	<i>N</i>
<i>Thomas Batchelor</i>	<i>55</i>		<i>Page of the Backstairs</i>	<i>N</i>
<i>Augustus Fred. Gerding</i>	<i>40</i>		<i>Page of the Backstairs</i>	<i>N</i>
<i>William Peel</i>	<i>20</i>		<i>Page of the Presence</i>	<i>N</i>
<i>George Wakeley</i>	<i>50</i>		<i>Queen's Messenger</i>	<i>N</i>
<i>Thomas Hill</i>	<i>40</i>		<i>Queen's Messenger</i>	<i>N</i>
<i>Isaac Cart</i>	<i>30</i>		<i>Valet</i>	<i>N</i>
<i>Andrew Dehler</i>	<i>30</i>		<i>Valet to L. G. Prince Albert</i>	<i>N</i>
<i>Thomas Cooper</i>	<i>25</i>		<i>Valet</i>	<i>N</i>
<i>Charles Woolger</i>	<i>30</i>		<i>Valet</i>	<i>N</i>
<i>James Woods</i>	<i>30</i>		<i>Valet</i>	<i>N</i>
<i>Joseph Martin</i>	<i>35</i>		<i>Cabinet Maker</i>	<i>N</i>
<i>Charles Bender</i>	<i>20</i>		<i>Sergeant to L. G. Prince Albert</i>	<i>N</i>
<i>Henry Lawley</i>	<i>25</i>		<i>Sergeant to L. G. Prince Albert</i>	<i>Y</i>
<i>William Sheppard</i>	<i>45</i>		<i>Footman</i>	<i>N</i>
<i>John Wilde</i>	<i>40</i>		<i>Footman</i>	<i>N</i>
<i>William Weightman</i>	<i>40</i>		<i>Footman</i>	<i>Y</i>
<i>Robert Penwick</i>	<i>40</i>		<i>Footman</i>	<i>N</i>
<i>James Otton</i>	<i>20</i>		<i>Footman</i>	<i>Y</i>
<i>Charles Knott</i>	<i>60</i>		<i>Livery Porter</i>	<i>N</i>
TOTAL in Page 1				
	<i>23</i>	<i>2</i>		

# The life of a servant



Get to know what life is like as a servant. Do your own research to find out what different servants do and draw a picture for each one.

A Footman.....

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A Lady's Maid.....

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A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners and a blue border, intended for drawing a picture of a Lady's Maid.

A Messenger.....

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A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners and a blue border, intended for drawing a picture of a Messenger.

**Write a story about someone  
who lived and worked in a big  
house in the past**

What was their name? What job did they do?





