



KEY STAGE 1: GEORGE MÜLLER 1805-1898

KS1 UNIT 6 - How should we live our lives?

Explore positive examples of how to live, and allow individual reflection on how an individual's actions affect other people.

Local example from Bristol - GEORGE MULLER – He was a Christian and the founder of the Müller orphanages in Bristol. He looked after over 10,000 orphans in his lifetime.

Also fulfils '*significant historical events, people and places in their own locality*' as part of the National History Curriculum.

LESSONS

One or two lessons focussing on the life and work of George Müller – choose from some of the suggested activities below or use your own.

Suggested activities

1. Starter activity - paint the scene of life for many poorer children in Victorian Bristol. The following websites might be helpful:

<http://www.victorianchildren.org/victorian-children-in-victorian-times/>

<http://www.victorianweb.org/genre/childlit/childhood4.html>

You could also use the following bullet points to paint the scene.

- Poor Victorian children lived in very small houses, or even in single rooms.
- Most of the children were sent out to work to earn money for the family.
- Some children were even sent out to work at the age of 4 or 5 years old.
- Some families had 10 or 12 children, so that they could earn more money.
- The children often worked in filthy, dangerous conditions. They worked long hours – sometimes up to 18 hours a day. They worked in mines, factories, textile mills, on farms, as servants in houses, as chimney sweeps, as clothing and hat makers etc. Their wages would have been very low.
- Many of the poorest children lived on the streets. They were either orphaned, or from neglectful families.
- There were a lot of children who were orphans in Bristol, due to the cholera epidemic.
- Some of the orphans were treated very badly.
- Some of the children living on the street were forced to steal and beg to support themselves.

2. Working in pairs, ask the children to think about how would they want to change things for these poorer children in Bristol? – give 5 ways

Following this activity tell the pupils that we are going to learn about someone who did change things to make the lives of these poorer children better – George Müller. He transformed the lives of 10,000 children.

3. Tell the story of George Müller – there are two free PowerPoints available which can be used to illustrate the story.

4. Create a timeline to show when George Müller opened his first orphan house in Bristol, and mapping the growth of his work in caring for Orphans. Use the timeline on the Müllers website to help you.

5. Hot seat George Müller – teacher is George Müller – children ask questions

6. Photograph activity – choose a selection of photos. Stick each one on a large sheet of paper and put them on separate tables. Ask the children to work in groups of 4, visit each photo, moving around to the next photograph after a few minutes, and write around the photograph how what is pictured would have impacted the orphan's lives.

For example, Babies Dormitories picture – shows children were given somewhere clean and dry to sleep in a bed, they were given uniforms to wear, they had toys to play with, the older children helped in caring for the younger children etc.



7. In pairs, consider why George Müller wanted to help these children and consider how the level of care and education provided impacted on individual orphans lives.

8. Write a thank you letter to George from one of the orphans (possible Homework activity)

9. Questions for the children to consider either as a class or working individually:

- What inspires you most from the life of George Müller?
- How do your actions affect other people?
- How could this story make a difference to the way you live your life?
- Can you think of examples in Bristol today where help is given to poorer children in Bristol? For example, Foodbanks.

Resources available – downloadable from www.mullers.org/teachers

- The Bristol Miracle booklet on the life and work of George Müller (suitable for supporting teachers) – pdf available
- Scanned photographs
- PowerPoint showing a visual chronological history of George Müller's life
- PowerPoint showing 20 Key Historical Photographs of George Muller's Ashley Down Orphanage
- Interactive timeline and videos <http://www.Mullers.org/timeline>
- Scanned records of orphans, including birth and death certificates, admissions and dismissals
- Volunteer available to visit schools and tell the George Müller story - interactive experience including a short talk, Question and Answer time, opportunities to explore artefacts. Book a visit by calling 0117 924 5001 (Monday to Friday 10am-4pm) or fill in a contact form online www.Mullers.org/school/visits