



GOVERNMENT
HOUSE

Teachers' Resource Guide

At Home With The Forgets





GPS Coordinates: 50.4551839 - 104.6469029

Welcome to Government House!

This guide will help you provide a stimulating and inspiring way for students to explore the museum while supporting learning relevant to Saskatchewan's Curriculum.

Rules of Conduct

For the safety and enjoyment of all visitors, each teacher or supervisor is responsible for the behaviour of their group. Supervisors must remain with their group at all times and the supervisor/student ratio must be one per 10 students. Please familiarize your students and supervisors with the Government House Rules of Conduct prior to your visit. Groups who fail to respect these rules will be asked to leave.



Running, shouting and other forms of discourteous behaviour are not permitted.



Backpacks, large bags and strollers are not allowed in the museum for security reasons. These items can be left in the Cloak room.



Coats, boots, umbrellas and any other outdoor gear should be left in the Cloak room. Please leave your valuables at home – the Cloak room is not locked and personal items left are not the responsibility of Government House.



Government House is wheelchair accessible. Inquire at the Commissionaire's Desk to access one of our complimentary wheelchairs.



Help us preserve the museum for future generations – keep a safe distance from and do not touch artifacts. Please respect the barriers.



Food, gum and drinks are not permitted in the museum.



Please be respectful of other visitors and turn off the sound on cell phone and other electronic devices.



Please note the arrival and departure times stated on your reservation.



Please leave a clean space for the next group to enjoy.

Enjoy learning and discovery at Government House!



Action



Questions to ask students

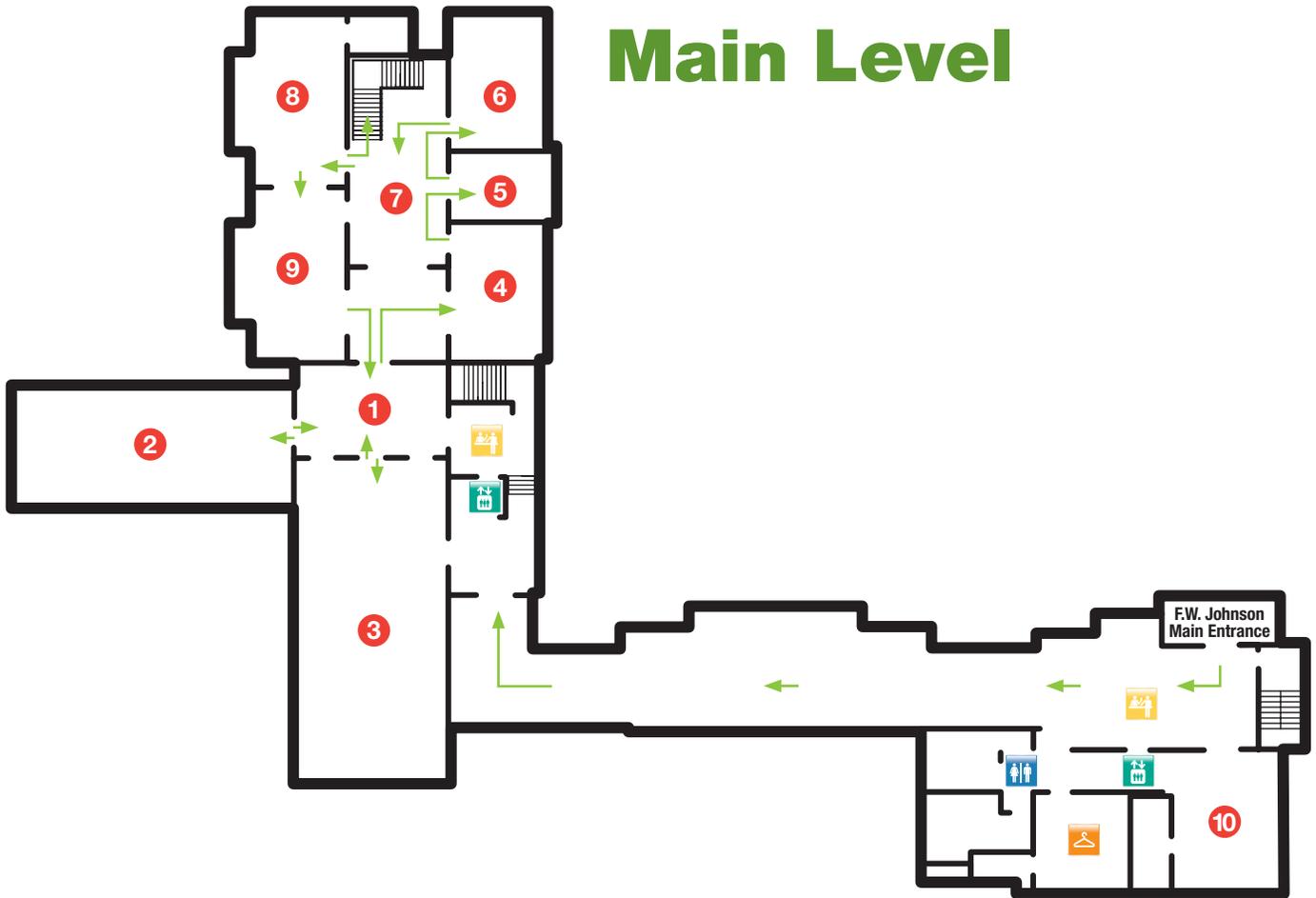


Look in the museum



Facts

Main Level



- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1 Amédée Forget Museum Entrance | Commissionaire's Desk |
| 2 Sylvia Fedoruk Conservatory | Elevator |
| 3 Henry Newlands Ballroom | Cloak room |
| 4 Library | Washrooms |
| 5 Ceremonial Entrance | |
| 6 Billiard Room | |
| 7 Main Hall | |
| 8 Dining Room | |
| 9 Drawing Room | |
| 10 Coquette's Gift Shop | |

Begin Here →

- | | | | |
|--------|---------------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Action | Questions to ask students | Look in the museum | Facts |
|--------|---------------------------|--------------------|-------|

A

Sit your students in the **Library** (first room on your right hand side)

Library

Q

Does your mom or dad have a library or an office? How is it different than this one?

(possible answers: metal desk, computers, metal file cabinet, modern telephone, no typewriters, no rocking horse, portrait of their family rather than the Queen, etc.)

L

Telephone on the wall: where is the mouth piece and where is the receiver?

A

Look in the 1906 phone book and find: Illustration of the right way and the wrong way of using a telephone (on Page 12)

Q

Approximate number of customers?

(Answer: between 300 and 400)

The yellow pages?

(No yellow pages)

Your family name?

(Their name might be there)

F

In the time of Monsieur and Madame Forget the telephone had only been invented for 22 years and it looked different than the telephones of today.

L

Picture of Jocko and Coquette with Monsieur Forget

Jocko's horse

Bird cage

Q

Do you have pets? What are they?

(possible answers: cats, dogs, rabbits, etc.)

F

Monsieur and Madame Forget loved animals. They had a monkey, Jocko, who liked to ride on the horse; a parrot, Coquette, who spoke only French and a canary. Also several deer and elk that were tame enough to be fed by hand wandered freely on the grounds.

L

Typewriter

F

The secretary of M. Forget was Frederic Bourget and he would have used a typewriter very similar to this one. Monsieur Forget also had an office at the Territories Building (East on Dewdney and also built in 1891). But he often stayed at home and worked in his office here.

L

Portrait of Queen Victoria

F

In 1898 Queen Victoria was on the throne. She was the longest reigning monarch in England (64 years). She had nine children and was called The Grandmother of Europe because her children and grandchildren married into the Royal families of many other European countries. She died three years later in 1901 and Madame Forget, who greatly admired her, raised \$500 to have this portrait done.

A

Action

Q

Questions to ask students

L

Look in the museum

F

Facts

A

Go to the next room on your right-hand side the **Ceremonial Entrance**
Ceremonial Entrance

F

Salesman chair: observe the carvings on the back with the very pointy nose and the large crack on the seat, the shorter front legs hence the sloping seat.

Q

How do sales people contact you now? Do they come into your home?

(possible answers: telemarketing, ads in paper, flyers, sales people in stores, etc.)

Do you have a policy concerning phone calls or strangers knocking at your door in your family?
 (A policy is a decision to do something a certain way)

F

Government House had a policy of not buying anything from door-to-door salesmen. Yet it was considered impolite not to invite callers in. So the butler would invite the salesman in and have him wait on this chair while he went to look for the master of the house. While the salesman waited, the nose on the back seat would poke in his back, the shorter front legs would cause him to slide forward and the crack in the seat would pinch his bottom. This would create a discomfort that would encourage the salesman to leave shortly after.

A

Now those who wish can try the replica of the salesman chair and get an idea of what it was like to be a door-to-door salesman in the late 1800s

L

Medallion of M. Forget

Q

What language is written on the medallion?

(answer: French)

F

Monsieur and Madame Forget were from Quebec and French was their first language. Louis-Philippe Hebert, who made the medallion, was the first Canadian-born commemorative sculptor. The words on the medallion are French. *Amical souvenir* means “friendly memory.”

A

Then go to the next room to your right-hand side, the **Billiard Room**
Billiard Room

L

Pool table: observe that there are no holes because the table is for the game of carom billiard.

Wood burning fireplace

Wine cellaret

Ashtray: notice how it is made from a horse hoof

Cuspidor (spittoon)

Decanters

Tobacco case

Q

What sound do you hear?

(answer: chatter, pool balls knocking)

Do you have a room in your house reserved for certain members of your family?

(possible answers: a playroom for children, an office for a parent, a studio if parent is an artist, a sewing room, a workshop, etc.)

A

Action

Q

Questions to ask students

L

Look in the museum

F

Facts

Q *Where do many people who smoke go nowadays?*
(possible answers: In most public places smoking is now forbidden and even in many homes smokers go outside)

F In the times of Monsieur and Madame Forget men gathered here after supper to smoke cigars or pipes, play games such as pool and cards and discuss business and politics, subjects that they would not talk about in front of the ladies. They would wear smoking jackets and leave them in this room. They would then wash their hands in the little bowl filled with scented oils. The only wood burning fireplace of the house was in this room. The draft it created would help move the cigar smoke up the chimney. When Monsieur and Madame Forget had guests for supper, Monsieur Forget would bring the men in this room after supper.

A Go across the hall to the **Dining Room**
Dining Room

L **Portraits on the wall**
Black vault door in the back
Dishes, utensils and serving dishes: notice the engravings on utensils as well as the ivory handle and the horn handles on some chafing dishes.

Q *What kind of portraits do you have in your house?*
Do you have pictures of the people living in your house right now?
(possible answers: family pictures, friends, extended family, etc. and yes there are pictures of people who live there now)

F The portraits on the wall are of previous Lieutenant Governors of the North-West Territories (David Laird, Edgar Dewdney, Joseph Royal, Charles H. Mackintosh, Malcom C. Cameron). It was the tradition to not put the portrait on the wall of the actual Lieutenant Governor so that is why the portrait of Monsieur Forget is not there. The other two portraits are of Canadian Prime Ministers. Sir John A. McDonald was Prime Minister when the house was built and Sir Wilfrid Laurier was Prime Minister when Saskatchewan became a province in 1905.

Q *Where do you keep your dishes at home? Is it in a locked safe?*
(possible answers: kept in cupboards and not locked to the exception of maybe some special fine China)

F In the times of Monsieur and Madame Forget, the dishes would be kept in the locked vault.

Q *Do some of you grow a garden in the summer or do you know someone who grows a garden?*
Have you ever eaten a just-picked ripe tomato, a corn on the cob or a carrot from a garden?
How did it taste?

(possible answers: yes, no, grand-parents, neighbors, tasted great, etc.)

F After 1901 when the greenhouse was built, Monsieur and Madame Forget created a series of dinners where every dish was produced at Government House. Their greenhouse, under the capable hands of their gardener George Watt, provided fresh fruits, vegetables and flowers all year round.



Action



Questions to ask students



Look in the museum



Facts

AWalk over to the **Drawing Room**, next to the Dining Room**Drawing Room****Q***Do you have a regular time every week when you invite your friends to your home? Does your mom or your dad invite their friends every week at the same time?*

(possible answers: probably not but maybe regular Sunday night supper)

F

Madame Forget had her first “At Home” three days after moving to Government House. Every Thursday between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. the ladies of the community knew they could come visit her. It was so consistent that only the changes were announced in the newspaper.

L**Piano****Q***What sound do you hear?*

(answer: piano playing)

What is the name on the piano?

(Gerhard Heintzman)

Do you play the piano when you have guests at your house?

(possible answers: yes or no)

F

The piano was bought by Madame Forget in 1901. Mr. Gerhard Heintzman (the name on the piano), was a guest at the 1901 Levee and lent Madame Forget this piano which she bought later for \$600. Madame Forget was a founding member of the Regina Musical Club, one of Saskatchewan’s oldest musical organizations. Music was important for the Forgets and also for their gardener George Watt who was an accomplished musician and performed at social functions.

The New Year’s Day Levee is a tradition that began on January 1, 1884 when Lieutenant Governor Edgar Dewdney held the first Levee in Saskatchewan. It is an opportunity for the public to come to Government House and exchange New Year’s greetings with the Lieutenant Governor. The New Year’s Day Levee is still held today.

L**Petticoat mirror****A**Have the students walk in front of the **Petticoat mirror****Q***What do you observe?*

(possible answers: my feet, my legs, my shoes, etc.)

F

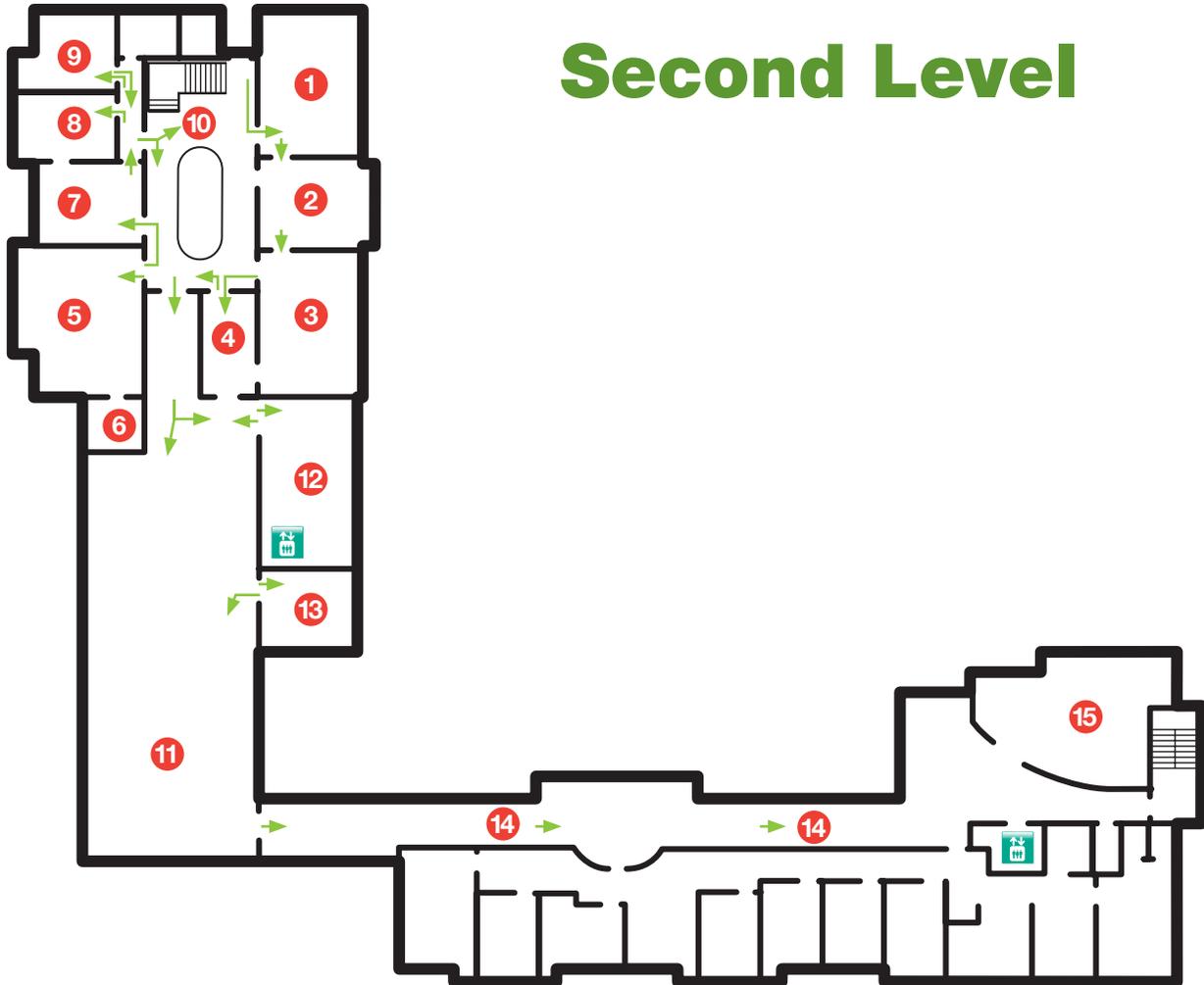
The ladies could walk in front of the mirror to see if their petticoat was showing. It was considered improper for a lady to show her ankles.

ANow leave this room and stand in the **Main Hall** for a few minutes**Main Hall****F**

In the time of Monsieur and Madame Forget the ballroom had not been built yet. It was added in 1928. So this hall acted as the ballroom. Chaperones would sit by the banister upstairs and keep an eye on the people below.

A**Action****Q****Questions to ask students****L****Look in the museum****F****Facts**

Second Level



- 1 Second Guest Bedroom
- 2 Morning Room
- 3 First Guest Bedroom
- 4 Guest Bathroom
- 5 Master Bedroom
- 6 Master Bathroom
- 7 Governess' Room
- 8 Night Nursery



- 9 Day Nursery
- 10 Upper Hall
- 11 J.E.N. Wiebe Interpretive Centre
- 12 Picture Us - In Victorian Times
- 13 I Heard it at Dinner
- 14 Temporary Exhibit
- 15 George Brown Boardroom
-  Elevator



Action



Questions to ask students



Look in the museum



Facts



Now go to the stairway across the hall and make your way upstairs to the **Upper Main Hall**



Chandelier



Do you have a pet who likes to swing from the chandelier?
(possible answers: probably not)



Jocko's favourite game was to swing from the chandelier.



Go to the first room on your left, the **Second Guest Bedroom**



When you have guests that sleep over at your house, where do they sleep?
(possible answers: guest bedrooms, hide-a-bed in family room, air mattress on the floor, etc.)
If you had your grandparents visiting and your cousins, who would be most likely to stay in the guest bedroom and who would be most likely to sleep on an air mattress on the floor?
(possible answers: grandparents in guest bedroom and cousins on air mattress)



When Monsieur and Madame Forget lived here, they had many guests visiting them. Based on the British model of society, class distinction was very important. The class distinction of guests was demonstrated by which bedroom they were given to sleep in. So this bedroom was occupied by the least important guest or, when a couple visited, by the man and the woman would occupy the better guest bedroom.



Moustache cup



When you look at the cup on the table besides the bed, there is a lip guard. What is its purpose?
(possible answers: protect from the heat of the tea, keep from dripping tea, etc.)



Men in the late Victorian times often had big moustaches that they would wax. The lip guard was to protect the wax from melting and going into the tea.



Walk to the next room, the **Morning Room**



What sound do you hear?
(possible answers: tea being poured, rustling of newspaper, chatting, etc.)



Have the students sit on the floor in small groups and give them each a different page of the *Illustrated London News* and look at the name and the date of their newspaper



How do you think newspaper articles can help historians?
(possible answers: give them an idea of what happened at a time past. Get first-hand account of an event. Give an idea of the way people dressed and people lived, etc.)



Action



Questions to ask students



Look in the museum



Facts

A

Have the student find the picture of a monkey, a kangaroo, an ad, an object of the past you don't use today

F

Newspaper articles are an invaluable source of information for historians. They give a first-hand account of how an event was perceived at the time it happened. It also gives information on the fashion and the technology of the time.

F

The Morning Room was used by the guests of the Forgets as a breakfast room, a tea room and also a sitting room where they could write letters at the desk, read the newspaper, do needlework, sit out on the balcony or have a cup of tea or coffee. When there was no guest in the house, Madame Forget would sometimes hold meetings here for the various charitable and social organizations she was involved with (Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire (IODE), National Council of Women, etc.).

A

Walk to the next room, the **First Guest Bedroom**

First Guest Bedroom

L

Fainting couch
Corset

Q

Can you think of articles that people wear nowadays that can cause them health problems later in life?

(possible answers: can't think of anything, high heels for women, earphones for kids, etc.)

F

Nowadays many women wear high heels, which can cause feet and posture problems when worn over long time; kids put on earphones which can cause hearing loss when set too high and over long time. Similarly, women wore corsets to achieve a small waistline which was considered beautiful. However it constricted the rib cage and could cause digestive problems and fainting.

A

Walk over to the **First Guest Bathroom**

First Guest Bathroom

L

Sink
Copper bathtub
Pull chain toilet

F

Copper bathtubs were a luxury item (and still are for that matter). One of its advantages is that it retains the heat longer. In addition, a bed of coals could be added under the tub to help it retain the heat longer. The pull chain toilets were noisy so at night people would still use the chamber pots.

A

Action

Q

Questions to ask students

L

Look in the museum

F

Facts



Walk over to the other side of the hall to the **Master Bedroom**
Master Bedroom



Prayer table



Do your parents have breakfast in their bedroom?

(possible answers: maybe breakfast in bed once in a while, but not usually)



Monsieur and Madame Forget considered this room as their personal space where they could pray, since they were devout Catholics, where they could have simple meals when they had no guests in the house and where they could receive their intimate friends.



Copper bed warmer



A maid would fill the bed warmer with hot coals and warm up the sheets with it.



Servant's buttons



Do you have buttons like these in your house?

(possible answer: maybe yes but more likely no)



By pushing the buttons on the wall, Monsieur and Madame Forget could call the maid, the butler and the kitchen.



Walk to the next room on your left, the **Governess' Room**
Governess' Room



Do you have a governess or a nanny ? Do you have a babysitter?

(possible answers: more likely no for the governess and nanny but some kids might have one and probably yes for babysitter)



Monsieur and Madame Forget had no children so they did not have a governess or a nanny. But it was typical of well-to-do families to hire a nanny who was responsible for the daily care of the children. A governess would be hired when the children were older and started their studies. She would be responsible for their education.

Madame Forget had a 12 year old niece, Rita Mount, who came back with them from their visit to Montreal in December 1898 and planned to spend the winter with them. She may well have occupied the nursery rooms.



(on the sewing machine)



What do you think these objects are?

(possible answer: I don't know, to any number of guesses)



Action



Questions to ask students



Look in the museum



Facts

F The white object is a shuttle for tatting. Tatting is a process by which a fabric similar to lace is made of thread with a small hand shuttle and the fingers. The resulting product appears quite fragile but is indeed both strong and durable. Tatting was popular in Victorian times.

The other object is a darning egg. Darning is the act of mending holes in a garment with crossing threads.

A Walk through the doorway to the **Night Nursery**
Night Nursery



(on top of the dresser)

Q *What do you think this object is?*
(possible answers: I don't know to any suggestions)

F It is an ebony powder container with a screwed on top. Ebony is hard, heavy, durable wood most highly prized when black.

L **Pictures of children**

Q *How would you describe the fashion today for kids and adults?*
(possible answers: jeans, Lulu Lemon's wear, t-shirts, skirts, graduation dresses, business suits, etc.)

How can you find out what the fashion was for kids in the past?
(possible answers: look on the internet, look in old books, look in old magazines)

F One resource we have for finding out what kind of clothing would have been in fashion in the times of Monsieur and Madame Forget is an old Eaton Catalog.

A Look at the pages of an Eaton's catalog from 1901 and find children's clothing, books and look at the prices for items and compare them with today's prices



Walk to the next and last room, the **Day Nursery**

Day Nursery



Toys
Books/magazines



How are the toys in this room different than the toys of today's children?

(possible answers: some are similar: tea sets, dolls, carriages, sets but look older.
Difference: Absence of any electronic games)



The nursery is where children spent their days in Victorian times. There was no radio, no television and no computers. Children played, read, studied and had their meals in here. They would also play outside. As they became older they might also learn music, art and other subjects they were interested in.



Have students sit on the floor and read one story and write down what kind of details they get about the life of children then

The tour is now finished.

Here are some suggestions for further learning:



Visit the **Conservatory** and have lunch or a snack on the deck adjacent to the conservatory with your class



The Conservatory was built in 1901 to provide Government House with fresh fruits, vegetables and flowers all year round. The Conservatory was originally located where the ballroom now is and it was also the same size as the ballroom – larger than it is now. It was moved to its current location when the ballroom was added in 1928.

This greenhouse was the domain of the gardener George Watt, also a gifted musician. He kept handwritten journals (now kept at the Saskatchewan Archives) of his daily activities.



Action



Questions to ask students



Look in the museum



Facts

**What's in a name**

Have students find out what Lieutenant Governors have a street named after them in Regina



Have students make a calling card



When making a first call you must have a card to give to the lady of the house. On the hall table there should be a card tray, a pad and a pencil. When you arrived you wrote your name on the card and put it on the tray. The tray was then taken to the lady of the house so she would know when someone was there to see her. If no acknowledgement was made, then the lady of the house did not wish to see you at that time.



Have students keep a daily journal about something that they do that is very important to them (sports, activity, books they read, etc.) and have them read those entries to each other if they wish



Visit the Prairie History Room in the downtown library and read the files on Government House

Also at Government House:

- **J.E.N. Wiebe Interpretive Centre**
Share the excitement of Saskatchewan's proud history and heritage. Explore the interactive multi-media presentations and murals.
- **Picture Us – In Victorian Times**
Dress up and have your photo taken in Victorian Times riding in the recreated historical landau. (Remember to bring a camera).
- **Once Upon A Time Room**
The Once Upon A Time Room is a hands-on play room decorated to reflect new themes throughout the year.
- **Educational Room**
This multipurpose room is used for a variety of activities including school programs, presentations and crafts.
- **Discovery Backpacks**
Enhancing your visit to the Edwardian Gardens at Government House, Discovery Backpacks are now available. Backpacks include a scavenger hunt designed as a fun learning experience in the Edwardian Gardens, map, fun fact sheet, compass and plant identification book. (Contents may vary depending on time of year and age group).
- **Scavenger Hunts**
Seek and find historical and natural landmarks throughout the Edwardian Gardens. We have a variety of scavenger hunts for all ages and interests. Check your answers following your visit with the answer key on our website.
- **Edwardian Gardens Discovery Guide**
Follow the map to explore and discover the themed gardens and historical points of interest throughout the Edwardian Gardens.

For more information visit: www.governmenthouse.gov.sk.ca or call (306) 787-5773

**Action****Questions to ask students****Look in the museum****Facts**