

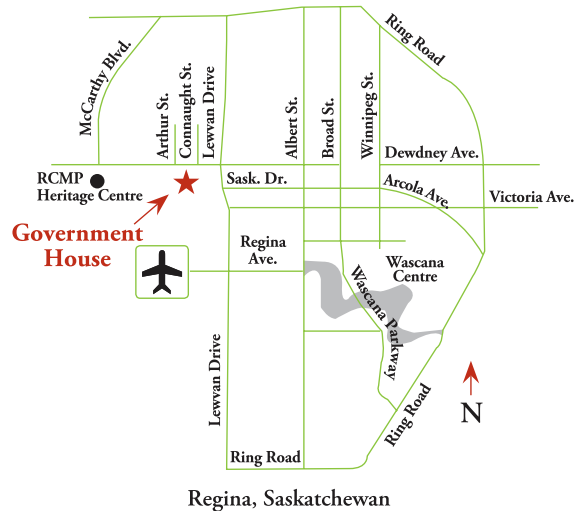


GOVERNMENT  
HOUSE

## Teachers' Resource Guide

# Victorian Lifestyles





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**

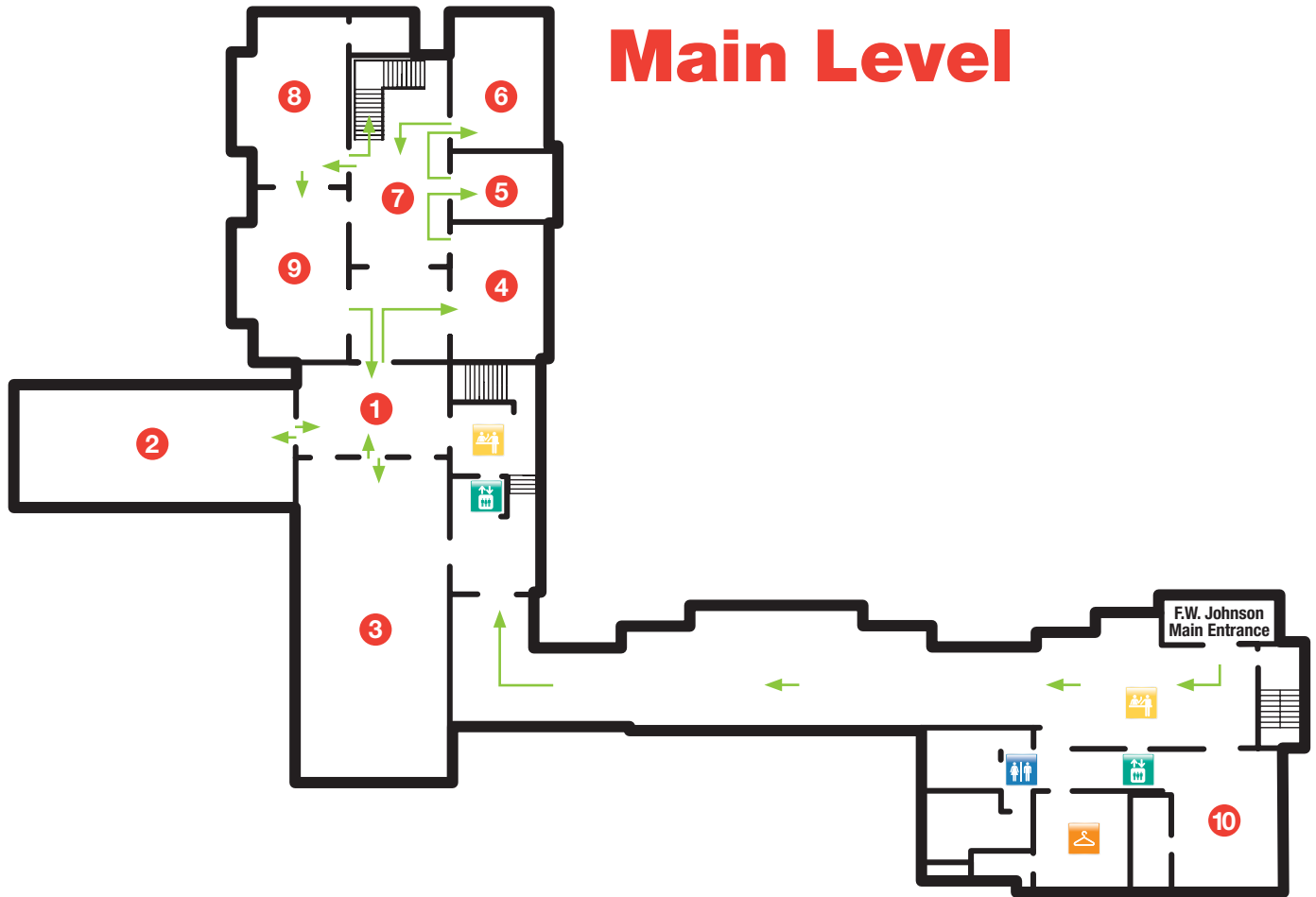


**Look in the museum**



**Facts**

# Main Level



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



Action



Questions to ask students



Look in the museum



Facts



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

## Library



**Picture of Jocko and Coquette with Monsieur Forget**

**Wooden rocking horse**

**Bird cage**



***Do you have pets? What are they?***

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



Monsieur Forget, who moved here in 1898 because he was the Lieutenant Governor, and his wife, Madame Forget loved animals. They had Jocko, a monkey, who liked to ride on the rocking horse; Coquette, a parrot, who spoke only French and a canary. Deer and elk, tame enough to be hand fed by Monsieur Forget, also wandered the grounds.

Victorian children were often encouraged to keep a menagerie. A menagerie is a collection of common and/or exotic animals kept as pets. This might include dogs and cats, but also, ponies, donkeys, goats, rabbits, raccoons and squirrels.



Monsieur and Madame Forget had no children. They did have a 12 year old niece from Montreal, Rita Mount, who came to spend the winter with them in 1898.



**Bookshelf**



***What is your favourite book?***

(answer: any number of books)



In Victorian times fairy tales were big favourites with children. Stories written at that time that are still known today are: *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Wind in the Willow*, *Peter Pan*, *Peter Rabbit* and all the other Beatrix Potter books, *The Little Princess*, *The Secret Garden* and *Little Women*.



**Action**



**Questions to ask students**



**Look in the museum**



**Facts**

**L** Phone on the wall  
Typewriter in the corner

**Q** *Does your mom or your dad have a phone or a typewriter like that in their office?*  
(possible answer: probably not)

**F** That's the way phones and typewriters looked like in 1898. (Let's not disturb Monsieur Frederic Bourget any longer. He is Monsieur Forget's secretary and very busy typing his documents! )

**L** Portrait of Queen on the wall

**F** This is Queen Victoria. She was the Queen of England and Canada when the Forgets moved here. She had nine children and because of the way she dressed her children she started two fashion fads: the sailor suit, after she dressed her son Bertie, The Prince of Wales, in a replica of a seaman's outfit and the tartan fashion after she bought a castle in Scotland and started dressing her children in kilts and tartan wear.

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

**Q** *Do you have door-to-door salesmen that come to your house?*  
*Do you have a special chair for them?*  
(possible answers: maybe yes for the salesmen, probably no for the chair)

**L** **Salesman chair:** observe the very pointy nose on the backseat, the large crack on the seat and the shorter legs in the front.

**F** When a door-to-door salesman knocked on the door in the time of Monsieur and Madame Forget, the butler would ask him to come in because he did not want to be impolite. Then he would offer him this chair, while he went to look for the master of the house. As the salesman sat on the chair, the nose would poke in his back, he would slide forward and his bottom would be pinched. It was so uncomfortable that he would leave. You see, there was a rule at Government House to not buy anything from door-to-door salesmen.

**A** If you wish you can try the replica in the corner. Just remember, door-to-door salesmen were not children. They would be taller than you are now. You will just have to come back when you are fully grown in a few years!

**A**

Go to the next room, on your right hand side, the **Billiard Room**

## **Billiard Room**

**Q**

***What sounds do you hear?***

(possible answers: chatter, pool balls knocking, etc.)

***Where do people who smoke go nowadays?***

(possible answers: in public places they can't so they go outside. Also many people ask smokers not to smoke in their house)

**F**

After supper, Monsieur Forget would bring the gentlemen in this room. They would talk business and politics, play pool and play cards, like the gentlemen are doing right now. This was the only room in the house where they could smoke cigars or pipes. Ladies and children were not allowed in this room, except for the maid, who would come after the gentlemen left to clean the room.

**A**

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

## **Dining Room**

**Q**

***When you have guests in your house, are you allowed to have supper with them? Where do you usually eat your meals?***

(possible answers: yes they can eat with guests. Usually, the kitchen or a dining room to eat their meals)

**F**

In the time of Monsieur and Madame Forget, rich Victorians and their guests would have long suppers of seven to nine course meals. (Remember, if you are ever invited to a meal that is set with many utensils like this, always use the one on the outside and work your way in!)

Children would eat their meals, brought on a tray, in the nursery. They would be served simple food, such as toad-in-a-hole (sausages in Yorkshire pudding batter, usually served with vegetables and onion gravy), bubble and squeak (shallow-fried leftover vegetables from a roast dinner – usually potatoes and cabbage, but also carrots, peas, brussels sprouts, and other vegetables), coddled eggs, macaroni and cheese, roly-poly pudding with golden syrup, French toast fingers, cambric tea, porridge with warm apple sauce and cinnamon and other similar food. However, on special occasions such as Christmas, they were allowed to have meals here.

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



Walk over to the **Drawing Room**  
**Drawing Room**



**Piano**



***What sound do you hear?***

(answer: piano playing)

***What is the name on the piano?***

(answer: Gerhard Heintzman)

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

(possible answers: yes, no, maybe)



Before the advent of music recording (first phonograph appeared in 1878, 20 years before 1898), people had to play music in order to listen to music. Music education was part of the education of rich children of the Victorian times. Madame Forget was an accomplished pianist. This piano was bought from Mr. Gerhard Heintzman (the name on the piano) who was a guest here at Government House in 1901.



**Petticoat mirror**



Have the students walk in front of the **Petticoat mirror**



***What do you see?***

(possible answers: my feet, my legs, bottom part of my body)



The ladies could walk in front of the mirror to see if their petticoat was showing. A petticoat is an underskirt, often with frills or ruffles. Women and girls would wear them in Victorian times.



Now leave this room and have the students stand in the **Main Hall** for a few minutes  
**Main Hall**



In the time of Monsieur and Madame Forget, the ballroom had not been added yet. It was added in 1928. So this hall acted as the ballroom. Try to imagine yourself in a long ball gown or a tuxedo dancing and being watched by the chaperones, sitting around the banisters upstairs. Children did not go to balls till they were 16 or so.



**Action**



**Questions to ask students**



**Look in the museum**




**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

Begin Here →

- 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**

## Upper Main Hall



**Chandelier**



*Do you have a pet who likes to swing from the chandelier?*

(possible answer: probably not)



Jocko's favourite game was to swing from the Chandelier. Capuchin monkeys are very agile and they can jump up to nine feet. That's approximately more than twice your height.



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

## Second Guest Bedroom



*Do you have guest bedrooms in your house?*

(possible answers: yes or no)

*If you have one bedroom for guests in your house and your grandmother and cousins come to visit and stay with you, who will have the bedroom?*

*Who's going to sleep on an air mattress on the floor?*

(possible answer: grandmother in the bedroom, cousins on the floor, etc.)



Similarly, bedrooms were given to guests depending on how important they were. This bedroom was given to the least important guest, or to the man if a couple visited.



**Cup on the bedside table**



*Why do you think this cup has that little piece that cups nowadays don't have?*

(possible answers: to protect the lips from the heat, prevent dripping, etc.)



Men in Victorian times had big moustaches that they would wax. The lip guard protected the moustache so that the wax did not melt and fall in their tea.



Action



Questions to ask students



Look in the museum



Facts



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



***What sound do you hear?***

(possible answers: tea being poured, rustling of newspaper, chatting, etc.)



**Clothes of the three people in the exhibit**



***Can you see some differences between the clothing people are wearing in the exhibit and the clothing your parents wear?***

(possible answers: long dresses, aprons, etc.)

***Do people today wear different clothing depending on the job they do?***

(possible answers: some wear uniforms: policemen, commissionaires, nurses, etc.)

***Do you notice any differences between the clothing on the people in the exhibit?***

(possible answer: apron for the maid, fancier dress for the lady, etc.)



Sometimes the clothing of people today can tell us what kind of work they do or if they belong to certain religious groups. Similarly in the Victorian times, men and women would wear different clothing, servants' clothing differed from their employers, etc. The clothing was an indication of social class.



This room was used by the guests as a breakfast room, a tea room and also a sitting room where they could read the newspaper, write letters at the desk, do needlework or sit outside on the balcony.



Walk over to the **First Guest Bedroom**  
**First Guest Bedroom**



This is the most important guest's bedroom or the lady's bedroom if a couple visited.



**Lady on the couch  
Corset in open drawer**



***What is the lady on the couch doing?***

(Answer: She's fainting!)



In Victorian times ladies wore corsets. It was a kind of undergarment that would make their waist very small. Sometimes it was laced so tightly that women would faint, which is what the lady is doing. Girls would start wearing a corset when they were teenagers.



Action



Questions to ask students



Look in the museum



Facts



Walk over to the **First Guest Bathroom**  
**First Guest Bathroom**



**Sink**  
**Copper bathtub**  
**Pull chain toilet**



***How is this bathroom different than your bathroom at home?***

(possible answers: bathtub is not copper, toilet is not a pull chain, their sink has a different shape, etc.)



Many houses at that time, in 1898, would not have had indoor running water, this house was one of the first in Regina. It was a luxurious house.



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



This is Monsieur and Madame Forget's bedroom. Sometimes they also had simple meals in here.



***Where are the servant's buttons?***

(answer: the three buttons on the wall beside the light switch)



The three buttons on the wall beside the door served to call the butler, the maid and the kitchen.



**The copper bed warmer (without naming it out loud)**



***What do you think it is? What would they use it for?***

(possible answer: to make popcorn or any number of guesses)



That object is a bed warmer. At night, the maid would put coals in the pan and pass it between the sheets, so that when Monsieur and Madame Forget would get to bed, their sheets would be warm and cozy.



**Action**



**Questions to ask students**



**Look in the museum**



**Facts**

**A**

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

## **Governess' Room**

**Q**

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

(possible answer: probably no for the governess or nanny and probably yes for babysitter)

**F**

It was typical of well-to-do families to hire a nanny who was responsible to take care of the children. A governess was hired when the children were older. She was more like a teacher. They would be responsible for the care of the children day and night. That's why it's the governess' room that is attached to the night nursery.

**L**

(on the sewing machine)

**Q**

*What do you think this object is?*

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

**F**

It is a darning egg. For example if you had a hole in your sock, you could use the darning egg to mend your sock with crossing threads.

**A**

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

## **Night Nursery**

**L**

**Pictures of children**

**Q**

*Can you describe what the fashion is for kids today?*

*What kind of clothes do you wear?*

(possible answers: jeans, t-shirts, dresses, skirts, pants, etc.)

*Do you think the way you are dressed is the same as the way kids on the pictures are dressed?*

(possible answer: probably not)

**F**

By looking at old pictures, old magazines and old catalogs, we can learn how kids used to dress in the past.

**A**

Action

**Q**

Questions to ask students

**L**

Look in the museum

**F**

Facts



Look at the pages of an Eaton's catalog from 1901. Look at the children's outfits on the bed. Notice how they are similar and how they are different. Notice the pinafore hung on the hook. Girls wore pinafores to keep their dresses clean.



The owner of the little dress on the bed was a boy. It's a cotton dress with ruffles over the shoulders, a ruffled collar with eyelet lace, long sleeves with ruffles at the cuff. It also has four rows of pintucks and eyelet lace ruffle at the bottom.



This was the night nursery. Victorian children only slept here. For the rest of the day they would go to the day nursery.



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



When Madame Forget's niece, Rita Mount, came for a visit, she may well have spent time in this room.



**Toys**



***How are the toys in this room different than the toys you have?***

(possible answers: some are similar: tea sets, dolls, carriages, puzzles, but look different than today. Absence of electronic games)



Common toys in the Victorian times would be similar to the toys in this room: tin soldiers, wooden blocks, wooden rocking horses, china dolls, doll houses, puzzles, board games and books.



In Victorian times, children spent a lot of time in this room. They played and ate here. They would also play outside under the supervision of their nanny or governess. As they became older they would study music, drawing, needle work (for girls), and languages. They had no television or radio and certainly no computer games. Older children also entertained themselves for hours with their collections of bird's eggs, butterflies, shells, pressed flowers and stamps.

Some games Victorian kids liked to play are still played today: 20 Questions, pin the tail on the donkey, Taboo, I have a basket\*, pick-up sticks, checkers, chess, backgammon, baseball, football, tug of war, etc. Imagination games were also popular then and still are today.

*\* I have a basket is a memory game. Player one says: "I have a basket." The next player says: "What is in it?" The first replies with the name of an item beginning with "a" like apples. The second player starts the same way and adds an item beginning with "b" (apples and bananas). The game continues through to the end of the alphabet. Any player that misses an item forfeits a turn.*



**Action**



**Questions to ask students**



**Look in the museum**



**Facts**

**F** The custom to dress girls in pink and boys in blue came from the fantasy tales that storks discover babies in flowers and deliver them to their parents. Girls were most often found in roses, hence pink was the traditional color for girls. Because the leaves of the red cabbage produce a dye of a pleasing blue and boys were most often found in a cabbage patch, the traditional colour for boys was blue.

**The tour is now finished.**

Here are some suggestions for further learning:

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

**F** The Conservatory was built in 1901 to provide Government House with fresh fruits, vegetables and flowers all year round. This was the domain of the gardener George Watt, who was also a musician. He kept handwritten journals of his daily activities. They are now kept at Saskatchewan Archives.

**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](http://www.governmenthouse.gov.sk.ca) or call (306) 787-5773



Action



Questions to ask students



Look in the museum



Facts