

# Teachers' Notes

## Living History: *Peterloo*

### Summary

Bring history to life and discover what happened at the Peterloo Massacre in St Peter's Field in Manchester on 16 August 1819. Uncover the story of the day by meeting two very different eyewitnesses and decide for yourself why the peaceful protest turned into violence.

### National Curriculum links

History, English, British Values and Citizenship

### Session itinerary

*Please note that two of the activities outlined below are teacher-led. Prompt sheets will be handed out to support this.*

*We also recommend independent gallery time which is not included in this itinerary.*



<p><b>Scene one:</b> Meet newspaper editor, Edward. Listen as he introduces the living and working conditions of the time. Accompany Edward on a march to St Peter's Field and listen to audio clues relating to the events.</p>	<p><b>Scene two:</b> Meet the first eyewitness; a local mill owner. Listen to their version of events and consider how the lead up to the protest could have been interpreted by those in authority.</p>	<p><b>Scene three:</b> Meet the second eyewitness; Mary, a mill worker, who was at St Peter's Field with her family. Consider the reasons why people attended the protest and the risks involved.</p>
<p><b>Activity – actor-led:</b> Hot seating: one pupil will pretend to be a child mill worker, whilst the other pupils will be journalists and ask them questions to find out about their life.</p>	<p><b>Activity – teacher-led:</b> In small groups, make notes on the evidence heard from the mill owner and use prompt sheets to explore key objects in the gallery.</p>	<p><b>Activity – teacher-led:</b> In small groups, make notes on the evidence heard from Mary and use the newspaper outline to begin writing your newspaper article.</p>

### Objectives

- Pupils to access an authentic theatre experience
- Use discussion, creative writing and objects in the galleries to extend understanding of the democratic process
- Analyse different interpretations of the Peterloo Massacre
- Learn about living and working conditions in the 19th century
- Encourage participatory work and individual creativity