

# ANSWERS

The children are being encouraged to use the collection to find the answers to the questions.

## Museum of Edinburgh

**A popular name for building was 'The Speaking House' – can you see why this might be?**

The words (in gold) on the front of the building.

**The main front door for the property was not at the front, rather it is through the Bakehouse Courtyard and to the right. This was a security feature of many older properties.**

**Can you find the original front door?**

To the rear of the property (through the Bakehouse Close and immediately to the right hand side).

**What language are the signs on the front of the museum written in?**

Latin

**What do you think they say?**

The last one says, 'I am old, but renew my youth'

**What similarities do the two buildings share?**

The both have defensive features. Similar types of windows.

**What do you think the museums will be about?**

Edinburgh – the treasures and wonderfully rich history of the city.

**Why do you think the museums are linked for this trail?**

The museums are linked thematically and therefore this provides added depth when studying the history of Edinburgh.

**What were these sedan chairs for?**

To carry people through the narrow streets of the Old Town.

**Why didn't people want to walk?**

The streets were filthy.

**Do you think it was a well paid job?**

It was average pay (it would depend on need)

**How many people do you think could fit inside?**

One

**How were the sedans in the right place at the right time?**

People would send a servant to summon one or send a message. Rich people would have their own Chairmen.

**Do you think they were comfortable?**

No

**Why do you think this?**

They were carried by men and this was across uneven streets. They were wooden and small.

**How did they move?**

Strong men (often from the Highlands) would carry them - called Chairmen.

**How many people do you think carried them?**

2 or 4

**What else can you learn about the Old Town from this?**

Normal carriages couldn't fit.

**Can you find anything else in this room which is interesting?**

This is an introduction to the City of Edinburgh – there are many other interesting things here. Take a look.

**Why was the Old Town called Auld Reekie?**

Because it was very smelly – people threw waste into the Loch and out onto the street.

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## Shoes and Pattens

### What were the shoes made from?

Damask

### Are they the same as shoes you wear today?

No

### How are they the same? How are they different?

They are small, delicate and not durable, they were made to match the dress. These shoes were handmade.

### What are pattens?

They are overshoes- they went on top of your nice shoes.

### Why were they necessary?

They were used to protect the good shoes from the dirt of the streets.

### Do you think they would work?

They would work to a point- it was a clever idea

### Thinking about the pattens, the shoes and the chamber pot that you have seen in this gallery – how do they link to the sedan chairs from Gallery 1?

It reinforces the image of Edinburgh as a dirty place that people did not want to walk through.

## Look at the models of the Royal Mile

### Is the street the same now as it was?

No

### How has it changed?

There are more buildings now

### Why do you think it changed?

Because the city grew

### Can you find the Museum of Edinburgh and The People's Story on the models?

There is a card indicating where they are.

### Why is this part of the Royal Mile called the Canongate?

The Canongate gets its name from the 'Canons' or monks of Holyrood Abbey.

### What do you think living in the Old Town was like?

Not very nice. Smelly, noisy and busy.

### Would you like to have lived back then? Why?

Personal answer.

## The People's Story Museum

### What is surprising about the example of the living arrangements for people in the Old Town?

People lived in the same houses no matter what class they came from.

### Who lived in the house?

John Sliders, James Baillie, wife and children and servant, Thomas Cockburn, wife, children and servant, Lady Jean Nimmo and 2 servants, The Miss Ainslies, servant and chairman Thomas MacGregor, wife and baby.

### What kinds of jobs did they have?

Journeyman tailor, merchant, lawyer, Lady, gentlewomen, porter.

### Were they all the same kind of jobs/ people?

No, they came from different classes but all lived in the same building.

### Can you find Alexander, Katherine and Janet?

The three people on the left as you enter the museum

### What do you think about this family?

Personal reflection

### Are they wealthy or poor?

Quite poor

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**What jobs do they have?**

Alexander - scavenger, street cleaner / Katherine - fire-lighter, looks after neighbour's poorly baby.

**What do you think about the diet they have?**

Not very good or varied.

**Do you think they were healthy?**

No.

**What factors contributed to their health?**

Bad living conditions, common illnesses, poor diet, long working hours, bad living conditions.

**What game is Janet playing?**

Marbles

**Does she go to school?**

Does not go to school because her parents can't afford to send her and there are not enough charity schools

## Crime and punishment

**Can you find the punishment for robbery?**

Execution

**Do you think this is a severe punishment?**

Personal reflection (yes)!!

**Are there any other punishments which surprise you? Which ones?**

Personal response.

**Were punishments for crimes back then the same as the punishments for crimes now?**

No, they were much harsher.

**How have they changed?**

People are no longer executed. People just go to prison.

**Do you think punishments were better then or now?**

Personal response.

**Why?**

**What tool was used to catch suspects who were fleeing?**

Catchpole.

**Do you think this was effective?**

Personal response.

**What other tools did they use on criminals?**

Leg irons, neck locks, whips, stocks.

**There is a man holding a scroll of paper (yellowed colour - it may be missing), wearing a hat and uniform.**

**Who was this person?**

George Pratt

**What was his job?**

Town Crier

**Why was this job so important and crucial?**

Many people could not read and so therefore, this is how news and information was spread.

**Why might this person sometimes need guards to protect him?**

If he had bad news (increase in tax or such) people could react violently and so he would need to be protected.

There were no newspapers (and television), and many people could not read or write. The town crier gave people all the news and information – sometimes delivering bad news, such as tax rises! Sometimes town criers would have drummers and a bell which they would ring, this would signal an announcement. It was a very important job and town criers would have protection to keep them safe.

**Continue round the corner to answer the next few questions.**

**What was one of the main purposes of this building?**

A prison.

**Describe what being in a cell here would have been like?**

Not very nice. Dark, cold, uncomfortable.

**What were conditions like?**

As above.

**Who is in the cell?**

Flora McDougall, Donald McCulloch and George Bain.

**What were their crimes?**

FM - suspicion of theft, DM - desertion and joining a different regiment, GB - in debt.

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**Do the punishments fit the crimes?**

Personal response.

**Do you think that the old justice system was fair or not?**

Personal reflection, it was very harsh.

**What is odd about the inhabitants?**

They are men and women together in the same cell.

**How is this different from prisons today?**

Men and women would have separate cells.

**Do you think that prisons today are better or worse than this cell?**

Better - more comfortable, clean, good food etc.

**Work in small groups and see how many different jobs you can find represented in this room?**

Fishwife, dockers, fishermen, shipbuilders, industrial workers, whisky workers, brewery workers, Cooper workers, printing workers, stationary manufacturers, bookbinders, joiners, hotel workers, office workers, transport workers, domestic servants.

**The life of a fishwife in 1953.**

**What time does Peggy start her day?**

6.30am

**How many hours a day does Peggy work?**

11 hours

**What does her husband do?**

He is a fisherman

**How many kids does she have?**

2 young boys

**How old was she when she started to work?**

14 years old

**Why did she decide to do this job?**

Family tradition

**How old is she now?**

39 years old

**How long has she worked?**

25 years

**What kind of clothes does she wear?**

Thick and warm

**How heavy was her creel when full? Is this heavy?**

140lbs/ 64kgs/ 10 stone and yes – very heavy

**Why was Peggy's life different to many other women at this time?**

She was a working wife and mother. She had more independence. Fishwives were respected and normally controlled the money in their families.

**The life of a domestic servant in 1933.**

**What time does Annie start her day?**

5.30am

**Does Annie have a husband?**

No, girls had to leave service if they married.

**Why did this kind of work become less popular?**

World War 1 changed things and there were more jobs available to women – clerical work and so on.

**Are any of these jobs still the same today?**

Some are similar but jobs have changed because of new technologies, new jobs and changes in society.

**What has changed?**

Working conditions, workers' rights, women's rights, pay, nhs, technology.

**Take a look around this room and write down some key information about some of the jobs that interest you.**

**Are any of the jobs from the past still the same today?**

Some are similar but jobs have changed because of new technologies, new jobs and changes in society.

**How are they different?**

There are many changes; hours, conditions, pay, technology.

**What caused these changes?**

Unions, laws, technology, societal changes, women's rights, workers' rights, nhs, etc.

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**What were the biggest changes to working conditions?**

Better health and safety, better environments, better hours, women being equal.

**What were the biggest changes to types of jobs/ trades?**

Technological advancement.

**What are the main jobs in Edinburgh now?**

If you are unsure - have a look online once you get back to school.

**What was a washhouse and why were they needed?**

A washhouse was a public place to take your clothes and wash and dry them. There were limited facilities in houses, often no running water. Opening the washhouses was the answer to the lack of drying space, lack of running water, toilets etc.

They were places of gathering and community feeling – many were saddened when they closed down because they lost that time to socialise.

**Why did they close the washhouses?**

New council housing was built – this had plumbing (hot water, toilets and baths).

Is there anything like this now? Launderettes are similar – they have washing machines and dryers that you can pay to use.

**What differences can you see when you compare this to your kitchen at home?**

Old cooker, fashion of mum and child, mangle to wring the clothes by the sink, open shelving, the radio.

**What era does this kitchen show?**

WW2

**Note down anything interesting from this scene.**

**What was Grove House?**

Accommodation for homeless people.

**Who was it for?**

Poor and homeless males

**Is there anything like this today?**

There are some homeless refuges/ houses

**Do you think having places like Grove House is a good idea? Why?**

Personal reflection

**What illnesses caused the most deaths in Edinburgh?**

Infectious diseases – cholera, typhus, typhoid, smallpox, influenza, whooping cough, tuberculosis, scarlet fever, diphtheria, measles and pneumonia.

**Why do you think these were so prolific in Edinburgh?**

Lots of people living in poor conditions. Medical care was expensive.

**When did the NHS begin?**

1948

**Why did this help?**

Health care was free at the point of need and new hospitals were created as well as new doctor surgeries.

**What else helped?**

Medical advances – understanding what caused the illnesses and finding cures and immunisations.

**Think about the Edinburgh that you discovered at the start of this trail.**

**What changes did the city go through?**

**What were the biggest changes and why did they happen?**

**Do you think life in Edinburgh is better now or then? Why?**

**What was your favourite thing that you learnt today?**