

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY SHEET

SOURCES

Source 1a. Letter written by a schoolgirl describing a school treat in Petworth, 14th September, 1887

Source 1b. Audio version of Source 1a

Source 2a. Description of a 'Christmas Tree' treat for Billingshurst Sunday School, 2nd January, 1889

Source 2b. Audio version of Source 2a

Using the sources, what can you find out about the 'fun' things organised for Victorian schoolchildren? What do you get in your school as a reward for good behaviour?

Victorian treats

Today's rewards

Source 1a

Letter written by a schoolgirl to her sister describing a School Treat for children in Petworth, 1887.

East Street, Petworth,

Sept. 14th, 1887.

MY DEAR SISTER,—I am going to tell you about our School Treat. First we marched from the school to church; then, when we came out of church we marched along Church Street, down East Street, then down New Street, and into the Market Place. A lot of the children had flags, and the band played in front of us. Then we went from the Market Place up the back road, through the grand entrance, out into the park, and put all the flags down. Then we went to play. There were swings, cricket, skipping ropes, rocking horses and boats. We had not been there long before the bell rang which was to call us to tea. We had to march down the hill and into the pleasure grounds, where we had tea. We had bread and butter, jam bread, cake, and tea. After we had tea we went up the hill again. Then there were races for girls, boys, and men. Then we played at dancing round the may-pole; there were three large rings, the smallest first, then the next, then the young ladies. There were a lot of ladies there, and I am sure they did all they could to make us happy. The band kept playing nearly all the while we were there. There were hoops and sticks and kites to play with. Some of the mothers sat on the steps in front of the house, and had some tea. The teachers and all the ladies had tea in the house. Mr. Tugwell, the clergyman, went with us when we marched round the town, and when we went home, too. I will tell you what some of the races were. There were handicap races for girls, and handicap races for boys, racing with an egg and spoon in your hands, and racing in sacks for boys and men; then there were races for boys with their legs wheelbarrow fashion; then the men raced with little boys on their backs. They all had prizes, Lady Leconfield gave the prizes away. It got dark so soon, but never mind, perhaps we shall stay longer another year. Then, when it was time to go home, we marched down the hill round by the house, and as we went round they gave us all a bun; we then went through the grand entrance, and down into the market place, where the band played "God save the Queen," and all the children shouted "Hurrah!"; and then we all went home, after spending a very happy afternoon.

I am your loving sister,

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Source 1b is an audio recording of 1a that you can listen to.

Source 2

Description of a Christmas Tree party held for Sunday School children in Billingshurst, 1889.

CHRISTMAS TREE. — On Wednesday, Jan. 2nd, our Sunday School children had their annual Christmas tree. They met at 4 o'clock in the Schoolroom, where a substantial tea was provided and done full justice to by about 140 of the scholars; after which, they joined in a few games and carol singing. The huge Christmas tree, which was unusually heavily-laden this year, was then lighted up, and was the centre of attraction for the youngsters, who eagerly crowded around it. Every child in the School received some useful or fancy article from the tree in the shape of woollen mufflers, gloves, cardigans, shirts, &c., kindly contributed by the ladies of Billingshurst. Very great credit is due to the Misses Marshall, Shaw, Beath, Puttock, Caffin, and Brereton, who arranged the whole affair in a very praise-worthy manner. Mrs. Puttock and the Misses Brereton and Shaw paying special attention to the dressing of the tree. The children on leaving were each presented with a slice of cake and an orange,—a bountiful supply of oranges having been kindly sent by Mrs. Puttock, of Clevelands. This very pleasant evening was brought to a close with three hearty cheers for the contributors, and three for the helpers, and three for the Rev. C. and Mrs. Brereton.—*Communicated.*

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Source 2b is an audio recording of 2a that you can listen to.