

## What is a mystery?

A 'mystery' requires an open question to be answered by considering information that is provided. Not all the information is necessarily relevant and the group has to decide what is relevant. The answer should be as full as possible and considered seriously. Mysteries have a strong narrative thread - they are about people to whom things happen or who instigate events and this helps to get pupils hooked. They are a good tool for fostering collaborative work and independent learning.

Mysteries engage pupils in a wide range of high order thinking skills. These include:

- Classification
- Analysis of problems, events and arguments
- Testing of hypotheses
- Speculation
- Inductive and deductive reasoning
- The establishment of cause and effect

Mysteries can be differentiated in a number of ways including by altering the number of cards given to each pupil, arranging pupils in ability groups or choosing a mixed ability setting or providing writing frames for follow up tasks.

They do take quite a bit of time to set up but once you've got them they can be used over and over again.

The following mysteries were developed by Hertfordshire Primary History Co-ordinators at their conference in March 2006.

**Victorians**

**Why did ... cry on his 6<sup>th</sup> birthday?**

**Why was ... transported to Australia?**

**Why did ... have an Australian grandson?**

Could find a name of a local person

Stimulus - extract from Oliver Twist, maybe video extract.

**Statements**

Punishments in Victorian times were very fierce	In Victorian slang, picking pockets was known as "buzzing", stealing handkerchiefs
The Victorian era was a time of great wealth and great poverty	A pickpocket was a "dipper" in Victorian slang
The prison population in Victorian times increased dramatically	In Charles Dickens' novel "Great Expectations", Abel Magwitch escapes from a prison hulk, but is recaptured and transported to Australia
Prison ships known as "hulks" were moored off the coast of Britain to hold rising numbers of prisoners	Prisoners arriving in Australia went to a place called Botany bay where they had to do hard labour (breaking rocks, clearing soil, etc.)
Punishments for crimes included hard labour, for example, braking up rocks	The average family size ...

Vagrancy, having no home or money, was a crime	The average wage ...
Benjamin from Much Haddam, Herts was fined 5 shillings for stealing some peas in 1842	In 1837 there were 3625 prisoners in "hulks"
Edward Draper from Stevenage was sentenced to 3 weeks hard labour in 1857 for stealing some wheat	There were no pensions or benefits from the government to help very poor people who were unemployed or old or sick
By 1857 all prisoners in "hulks" had been transported (shipped) to Australia. Many prisoners died on the way, as the journey was long and hard	Many prisoners were sentenced to death and were publicly hanged. The Victorians believed this would put off other people from committing crimes
Extreme poverty often made people turn to crime	

Extract from Henry Mayhew's book  
 "London Labour and The London Poor" about an ex-convict being transported to  
 Tasmania (Van Diemens' Land)  
 Book: Spotlight on the Victorians by Sandy Brownjohn

Y3/4

Why did John Smith cry on his 8<sup>th</sup> birthday?

<p>John Smith was born in 1936 in London.</p>	<p>John Smith was evacuated to Norfolk in 1940.</p>
<p>Rationing was introduced in 1940.</p>	<p>In June 1941 eggs were rationed.</p>
	
<p>John's dad was enlisted into the Army.</p>	<p>The Second World War ended in 1945.</p>
<p>On 6<sup>th</sup> June 1944 the D Day landings began with the invasion of France.</p>	<p>Today John enjoys playing with his 5 grandchildren.</p>

<p>John's birthday is 8<sup>th</sup> June.</p>	<p>Winston Churchill was Prime Minister</p>
<p>Each person was allowed:  Meat - between 1s. (5p) and 2s. (10p) a week  Bacon - 113 gm to 227 gm a week  Tea - 57 gm to 113 gm a week  Cheese — 28 gm to 227 gm a week  Sugar - 227 gm a week.</p>	
<p>John's mum worked in a clothing factory which changed to making parachutes during the war.</p>	<p>In July 1940 a complete ban was put on the making or selling of iced cakes and in September the manufacture of 'candied peel' or 'crystallised cherries' was also banned.</p>

## Why Did Boudicca Kill Herself?

Some of these facts could be combined into one.

Boudicca was Queen of the Iceni Tribe	Boudicca was very tall and had amazing hair.
Her husband was called Prasutagus, King of the Iceni	She gathered together an army of 120,000 men.
Prasutagus was a friend to the Romans and the tribe was allowed to live as they wished.	Colchester's Roman name is Camulodnum.
When Prasutagus died he wanted half his belongings to go to his daughters and the other half to the Romans.	After Londinium was burned down, Suetonius gathered Roman troops and prepared for battle.
After Prasutagus died the Romans became greedy and took all the land and treated the family very badly.	Suetonius was the Roman Governor of Britain.
Boudicca and her daughters were flogged by the Romans.	The Roman army was very well organised and beat the Celts very easily.

Boudicca and her tribe wanted revenge for the way they had been treated.	No mercy was shown, not even to the women and children. 80,000 Britons died!
Colchester was burned by the Iceni.	Any prisoners were made into slaves and treated appallingly and many were tortured.

Additional stimulus material

Picture of Boudicca

Map of Roman Britain - showing tribes and major towns.

Follow up work

Write Boudicca's suicide note.

Y3

### Why did Boudicca burn down the temple in Colchester?

Druids were powerful Celtic priests.	Boudicca and her tribes attacked Colchester.
Druids practised human sacrifice. The Romans would not allow this.	Boudicca called for an army and many came.
In AD58 the new governor of Britain, Suetonius Paulinus conquered more tribes in Wales.	Colchester was small garrison and settlement of older soldiers.
In AD60 in Anglesey Paulinus killed the Druids.	Boudicca's army made a circle around Colchester. They burnt Colchester down.
The Iceni tried to make friends with the Romans.	Boudicca killed people sheltering in the temple.
Boudicca's husband was the King of the Iceni tribe.	Boudicca had two daughters.
Boudicca's husband planned for her to be Queen after he died.	Boudicca had red flowing hair and wore brightly coloured clothes.
Boudicca's husband died.	Boudicca loved her people.
Roman Soldiers came from Colchester and took Boudicca's land.	Boudicca had a bad temper.



Boudicca and her daughters were treated very roughly.	The Romans were well trained soldiers.
The Trinovante tribe supported the Iceni tribe.	

Y2

## Why do we remember Mary Seacole?

Mary Seacole was born in Kingston, Jamaica in 1805.	Mary became known as Mother Seacole
Mary's father was a Scottish soldier and her mother as Jamaican	After the war, Mary returned to England ill and with no money
Mary got her nursing skills from her mother	Press coverage to raise money
Civil rights	Awarded Crimean medal and other medals
Widowed	Festival to show recognition of her efforts
Crimean war	Background was not middle class and she had no training
She wrote a recount of her story	Unlike Florence Nightingale
She asked to go to the war but was refused so she had to fund herself	Set up the British Hotel
Because of the colour of her skin and because she was a woman, she wasn't helped to go to the war and nurse the soldiers	

Stimulus material

1. Trunk of things she could have taken
2. Copy of "Wonderful adventures of Mrs Seacole in many lands"
3. Museum of London resources

4. Map of her journey
5. Pictures of where she worked
6. Mock newspaper report from when she returned
7. Medals
8. Picture of her, the festival, where she worked
9. Quotes from people she worked with
10. Tape recording of quotes
11. Letters home from soldiers timeline

Y3/4

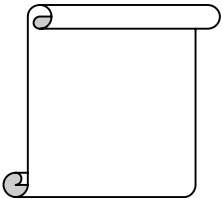
## Why did Harold Red Beard and his Vikings raid monasteries in the UK?

Harold red Beard was made an outlaw in Norway for stealing cattle	Worshippers gave money to the monasteries so that objects could be made of the finest materials such as gold/silver
Vikings valued precious metals particularly silver	Part of the monks work was to copy Holy books to show their importance
The Vikings were pagans. Their Gods included Odin, Thor and Freyr	Books were bound in leather covers decorated with jewels and held shut with silver clasps
Monks were unarmed and peaceful	When Vikings found Holy Books they ripped off jewels and precious metals for trade.
Monasteries were often built in remote places	In the 10 <sup>th</sup> century Viking Kings began to help Christian missionaries believing this would increase their own power
Vikings believed that if they died in battle they would go to Valhalla	

### Suggested follow up

1. Write a report on Vikings raiding monasteries
2. Use video camera - film a news report
3. Role play - children as eye witness or re-enact the raids/make props
4. Hot-seating - children being a Viking/head of the monastery
  - a. Build long-ships and make shields. make manuscripts/artefacts that might have been stolen

### Scroll



In the year 793 terrible signs appeared in the sky over Northumbria which frightened the people. There were whirlwinds and flashes of lightning and fiery dragons were seen in the air. All crops failed and so there was nothing to eat. Then the heathens came and destroyed God's church on Lindisfarne.

Anglo-Saxon chronicle, 890

Y3/4

## Invaders and Settlers - Were priests on Lindisfarne frightened?

The priests were holy men who didn't fight.	Priests didn't have families so there were very few women and children there.
Lindisfarne is in the North East - a remote settlement.	Vikings worshipped their own gods such as Thor and Woden.
Only priests and local villagers lived in Lindisfarne.	Priests believed in one God.
Vikings came from Norway which is North - across the sea from North East England.	The monks on Lindisfarne had many golden objects in the church.
Vikings were strong fighting men.	Vikings carried shields spears and swords for fighting.
Vikings travelled across the sea in boats.	Priests have seen other settlements in the distance on fire in the night and seen the boats passing by.
Vikings were seeking a good place to settle and live which would have good buildings, arable land, and near fresh water.	

### Visual aids

Picture of Viking, priests and monastery

Map

### Follow-up activities

1. Children in mixed ability groups - able readers in each. Interview a priest - after raid on gold.
2. Grouping as above - create newspaper report - eye witness account
  - describe Vikings
  - describe settlement of monastery
3. S&L activity - hot-seats
4. Radio broadcast (tell children less visual)

## Did Johnny Smith survive after he had been badly injured in the Crimean War?

Florence wrote to Johnny's family so that he could find out what was happening at home.	The British Government asked Florence Nightingale to help.
After one night in hospital, Johnny had lice and had nowhere to wash.	Florence Nightingale sailed to Scutari, Turkey on 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 1854
Johnny did not have a bed and he shared the hospital floor with rats.	Many men in the hospitals caught cholera and typhoid. They were dirty and there was no clean water. Florence wrote to the British Government for help
New female nurses weren't allowed to treat patients.	Florence cleaned hospitals, dressed wounds, gave medicine, got cleaner water, talked to soldiers who could not sleep, wrote letter for them, read books to them.
Florence gave Johnny a knife, fork, clean bedding and soap	
Lots of the new nurses had no training	Florence was tough, clever, stubborn and brave



There were sewers under the hospital.	To begin with the doctors didn't use the nurses' help.
In February 1855 42% of the patients at Scutari hospital died.	Florence did everything she could to help the soldiers to get well, workings through day/night - hence her name "The Lady of the Lamp".
Florence Nightingale grew up in a wealthy comfortable home.	Born in Florence and returned to England when she was 1 year.
Her parents expected her to live traditional middle class life. They were shocked when she decided to train as a nurse.	She had many cousins.
She had to go to Germany to train as a nurse.	At the time, nurses were often uneducated old women..
Very few injured soldiers recovered in Scutari Hospital.	Florence became an expert in keeping people healthy after reading lots of books.
People in England did not know what conditions were so bad in Scutari.	She was very religious and had a call from God which made her decide to be a nurse.

In 1854 conditions in the hospitals were bad. Rates spread diseases	1854 - "The Times" newspaper reported army hospitals were dirty and full of germs
When Florence Nightingale arrived in the Crimea she built beds for the injured	

## Year 5

### Why did Mary Seacole have difficulty becoming a war nurse?

#### Facts

Her mother was Jamaican	Women had fewer rights than men
White people in Jamaica had a better life than black people	Because of her ethnicity she was refused interviews with the war office who was recruiting nurses
She had knowledge of traditional medicine and European medical ideas	She recounted the story of her travels in "The Wonderful Adventures of Mrs Seacole in Many Lands" published in 1857
She established herself as a pioneer of the nursing profession	On her return from the Crimea, she was in the papers and there was a grand military festival which was supported by Lords and military commanders.
She died in 1881	She funded her own trip to the Crimea
In 1836 Mary married Edwin Seacole	She was born in Jamaica in 1805

Mary visited many Caribbean Islands including Cuba, Haiti and the Bahamas	After the war she returned to England
She was a traveller visiting the Caribbean, Cuba, Haiti, Bahamas, Central America and Britain	On the battlefield she nursed the wounded and was known as "mother Seacole"
In 1854 she asked to be sent to the Crimean War as a nurse	She was awarded the Crimean medal, the French Legion of Honour and a Turkish Medal
She established the British Hotel to provide comfortable quarters for sick officers	On her trips she learned more about medicine

Y2

## Why was it difficult for Mary Seacole to travel to the Crimean?

Mary Seacole was born in Kingston, Jamaica in 1805, her father was a Scottish soldier and her mother as Jamaican	On the battlefield she nursed the wounded and was known as "Mother Seacole"
Before her marriage Mary enjoyed travelling. She visited other Caribbean islands as well as America and Britain	Mary Seacole did not come from a wealthy family
On her travels, she learnt more about medicine and nursing	She wrote a book called "The Wonderful Adventures of Mrs Seacole"
Mary learnt about nursing from her mother	After the war, she was awarded the Crimean medal, the French Legion of Honour and a Turkish medal
In 1854 Seacole asked the English War Office to be sent as an army nurse to the Crimea	Women didn't usually travel alone in those days
Mary heard that the English needed nurses in the Crimean war	In those days most women did not go to school.

<p>The English War Office refused to give her an interview as a nurse because of the colour of her skin</p>	<p>Florence Nightingale had received some training to be a nurse. Mary had taught herself or learnt from her mother</p>
<p>Seacole decided to pay for her own trip to the Crimea</p>	<p>On the battlefield she nursed the wounded and was known as "Mother Seacole"</p>
<p>Mary Seacole did not come from a wealthy family</p>	

Y3

**What did Mary Jones have for her birthday tea on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1944?**

In 1938 Britain imported about 55 million tons of food a year from other countries	Many people kept chickens, rabbits, goats and pigs in their own gardens
Bacon, butter and sugar were rationed in 1940	Everybody had 16 ration points they could use how they wanted every month
Potatoes, fruit and fish were not rationed	Canned and dried fruit, chocolate biscuits, treacle, syrup, jellies and mincemeat were all rationed until 1950
Cheese, eggs and jam were rationed in 1940	Rationing for sweets and sugar ended in 1953
The war ended in 1945	Most homes did not have freezers
Children were allowed 200 grams of sweets every 4 weeks	Many people made their own bread
Every person could have 1 egg a week	A lot of women went to work in factories during the war

<p>In the countryside, you could buy eggs, butter and meat quite easily</p>	<p>Very little food could be imported during World War II. Many children did not know what a banana was until the 1950's</p>
<p>If you grew your own fruit and vegetables - you could have as many as you could grow</p>	



Y2/3

### Why do we remember Mary Seacole today?

Mary Seacole was born in 1805 in Jamaica. Her father was Scottish and mother was Jamaican.	In 1854 she volunteered to be a nurse in the Crimean War but was refused because she was mixed race
Mary learned her nursing skills from her mother who looked after injured soldiers.	She paid for herself to go to the Crimean war to help injured soldiers and was known as "Mother Seacole"
In 1836, Mary married Edwin Seacole, but Edwin died in 1844	She returned to England after the war sick and with no money.
She wrote a book about her travels "The Wonderful Adventures of Mrs Seacole in Many Lands" in 1857	When she returned after the war to England she was awarded the Crimean Medal and two other medals. A festival was held in her honour
She learned about traditional medicine and European medical ideas	Mary was one of the first people to start the nursing profession
Mary loved travelling	Mary died in 1881

Y4

## The London Times, 12<sup>th</sup> November 1857 Small Boy found Dead in Coal Shaft

A small boy believed to be James Blunt was found dead in a coal shaft in northern Wales.

Jimmy, as he was known to his workmates, was approximately eight years old. He was a new member of the Big Pit workforce.

His body was found by Oliver George Smith, who commented "It's not the first one I've pulled out dead." James will be buried in a pauper's grave at St Martha's Parish Church on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 1857. His case of death remains a mystery.

### How did Jimmy Blunt die?

Children walked to the mine, often an hour away	Jimmy's job was to open the doors for the carts to travel along the tracks
Children started working in pits at 4 a.m.	Jimmy had one candle to last all day for lighting
Breakfast was tea/bread	Fellow workers used sharp pickaxes to cut the coal from the seam
Meals were meagre, often only bread	Carts were often overloaded and heavy

A working day was 12 hours long	Air quality was poor in the shafts
Children had no time off work, even when ill	There was a danger of explosions of firedamp (methane gas)
Jimmy started work in the pit at 8 years old	Children were harnessed to the carts by chains
He was afraid of the dark	Shafts were very narrow and cramped
To get to the bottom of the shaft, he had to climb down a ladder, then a rope	Jimmy was often beaten by the putters and drivers for not opening the doors quickly enough

Find out about:

1. Pauper's grave
2. corves
3. firedamp
4. pickaxe
5. shaft
6. seam
7. Big Pit in Wales
8. putters and drivers

## Why did Mrs Brown lose 2 stone in weight in 1940?

<p>Before World War 2 started, Britain imported about 55m tons of food a year from other countries. After war was declared German submarines started bombing British supply ships. This led to shortages of food supplies in shops. The Government decided to introduce a system of rationing</p>	<p>Some people considered rationing to be very unfair. Eggs, butter and meat could be obtained easily without coupons in rural areas</p>
<p>Food rationing lasted for 14 years and finally ended in July 1954</p>	<p>Mrs Brown lived in Birmingham in a built-up area. She did not travel to the countryside</p>
<p>Ration books were introduced to make sure that everybody got a fair share of food, such as meat, jam, tea, cheese, flour and sugar</p>	<p>People were encouraged by the Government to grow their own vegetables in any small patch of land that they could</p>
<p>Mrs Brown had always enjoyed baking and eating cakes and scones, and always served a fried breakfast for herself and her husband</p>	<p>Mrs Brown was an expert at making and mending her own clothes and always managed to look smart during the war. After she lost so much weight she delighted in taking in her old clothes and making</p>

	them look more fashionable
Each adult was allowed to buy per week: 50g butter; 225g sugar; 100g bacon and ham, 1 egg, 50g cheese 6p of meat	Mrs. Brown used her small garden to grow lettuce, carrots, potatoes , onions, cabbage
Clothes were rationed from June 1941. A points system allowed people to buy 1 completely new outfit a year. People were encouraged to "make do and mend" so that clothing workers could be used to make munitions instead	In 1940, Mrs Brown wrote a book about how to bake cakes using potatoes and no eggs

Key issues:

What ingredients are needed to make a cake?

Impact of rationing?

Key dates for rationing?

Implications of rationing?

Y5/6

## World War II

### Question:

Why couldn't Joe have a birthday cake for his 10<sup>th</sup> birthday in April 1944?

Use all rationing statements from green sheet from pack (rationing timeline). In addition, use these statements:

Joe's mother was very good at baking and made Joe a cake for his birthday every year	Joe's mother took in washing and ironing from neighbouring families to supplement the family income
Bombs hit Joe's village in April 1945.	Joe lived in a small rural village in the north of England
Joe had three brothers and two sisters who lived at home with him	Newcastle was the nearest city to where Joe lived
Joe's father was away in Europe fighting the war	German submarines started bombing British supply ships
Potatoes, fruit and fish were not rationed	Everyone was issued with ration books

<p>Before the Second World War started, Britain imported about 55 million tones of food a year from other countries</p>	<p>Clothing was rationed from June 1941 after food rationing started. People had to make do and mend clothes so that workers and factories could be used to make munitions</p>
<p>Families were encouraged to hand in all aluminium saucepans and pans to build spitfire aircraft</p>	<p>Joe had very bad toothache in 1946 and could not find a dentist to help him</p>
<p>Gardens were dug up for grown fruit and vegetables. The Dig for Victory campaign started in October 1939</p>	