



Year 3 Topic:



Rochdale Pioneers

In Autumn 1, Year 3 will investigate local Victorian history through the story of the Rochdale Pioneers. We will explore what life was like in Victorian Rochdale, examine why working-class people needed fairer access to honest, unadulterated food, and investigate why 28 local weavers opened their famous Toad Lane shop in 1844. By exploring historical sources, census records, and artifacts, we will discover how the modern Co-operative movement began right on our doorstep and spread across the globe.

Sticky Learning

- How can different historical sources tell us different stories about the same event?
- What techniques can we use to make cardboard packaging stronger and more rigid?

Vocabulary:

- Co-operative
- Victorian
- Packaging
- Prototype
- Artefact
- Census

Key People:

- **Charles Howarth:** One of the founding Rochdale Pioneers who drafted the famous Co-operative principles and dividend system.
- **William Cooper:** At just 22 years old, he became the first cashier and shopman, opening the shop doors on that famous first night in December 1844.

Key Facts:

- The Rochdale Pioneers opened their iconic store at 31 Toad Lane on December 21, 1844, selling unadulterated food at fair prices.
- Life in Victorian Rochdale was harsh, with poor housing, hazardous factory work, and unsafe shopping conditions.



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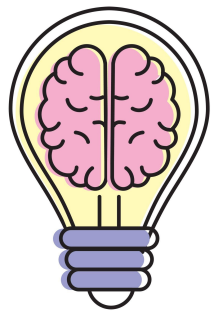
Engage



We launch our topic with an exciting trip to the Rochdale Pioneers Museum on Toad Lane and Rochdale Town Hall to examine real Victorian artifacts and explore the original shop site.



Develop



We will examine census records and photographs to investigate Victorian living conditions, analyze why the Pioneers opened their store, and evaluate different historical sources for reliability. In DT, we will analyze existing food packaging, test structural techniques to strengthen card, create paper prototypes, and assemble a net packaging design.



Enquiry Question

How did the Rochdale Pioneers change life for our town?

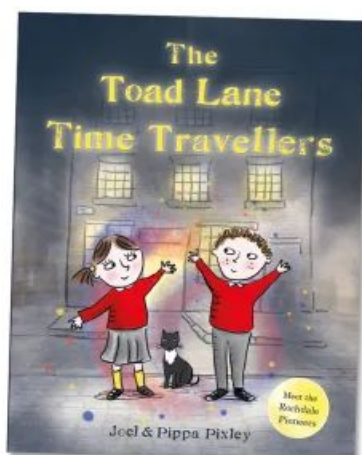


DT Brief

Design and construct a strong, attractive packaging prototype for a product inspired by the original Toad Lane store.

Class Text

The Toad Lane
Time Travellers
by Joel and
Pippa Pixley



Find out more:

- [The Co-Operative Heritage Trust](#)
- [BBC Bitesize - Victorian England](#)