

## Step back in time at John Wesley's House



John Wesley (1703-1791) was a minister, he worked in a church. He is most famous for founding a church called the Methodist Church.

You can visit the house he lived in to see how people lived in the past. At the moment we are closed but you can use our activity sheets to find out more about John Wesley's House and how people lived in the 18<sup>th</sup> century (1700-1799). You can see all the rooms in the house using our [virtual tour](#)

### The Kitchen

In the kitchen the cook is preparing lunch for the John Wesley and his visitors.

🔍 Look at the different pictures of our kitchen, can you spot five things our kitchen doesn't have that we might have in our kitchens today?



## The Study

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century people didn't use electricity like we do today but many scientists were trying to find out more about it by experimenting. John Wesley was one of those people experimenting, but he thought electricity could be used as medicine to make people feel better! He used this machine to make static electricity to give people small electric shocks, as medicine.



You can make static electricity too. If you have a balloon, blow it up and rub it on your hair, or a woollen scarf. If you hold it up over your head it'll make your hair stand up, that's static electricity. If you rub a woollen scarf on a balloon for long enough, the balloon should stick to a wall. (Remember, the scarf has to be made of wool!)

In his study John Wesley wrote a lot of letters as it was the main way people kept in touch in the past. He wrote books and read here too. John Wesley would have written with a quill pen, which is made from a feather. See if you can find all the words linked to John Wesley's study in the wordsearch below:

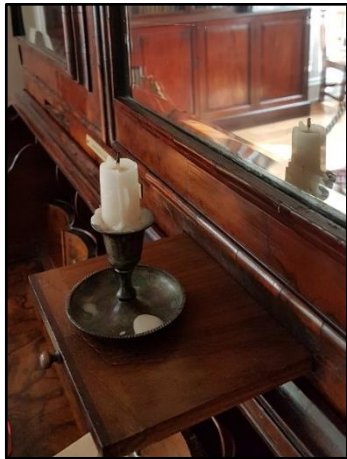


D	R	T	O	K	W	E	S	L	E	Y	B	U	F
T	A	C	Z	E	M	L	H	I	G	H	R	P	T
F	Q	U	L	S	O	A	Y	T	K	X	O	T	S
I	E	I	K	S	E	D	G	N	I	T	I	R	W
J	F	A	T	R	I	T	J	F	C	I	O	E	N
O	M	A	V	K	T	C	H	E	A	D	M	L	E
Z	C	S	D	N	X	U	G	Y	B	O	O	E	C
P	A	E	N	I	C	I	D	E	M	D	L	C	B
R	Y	V	F	L	I	R	T	H	E	N	E	T	M
E	M	B	O	E	A	B	D	E	M	N	T	R	C
Q	N	C	M	T	I	O	H	D	I	S	R	I	T
U	K	G	Z	R	N	D	S	C	L	O	F	C	K
I	G	T	B	O	O	K	C	A	S	E	F	I	M
L	W	O	H	N	K	I	L	N	S	K	U	T	V
L	E	T	T	E	R	S	J	D	N	A	H	Y	M
F	S	V	Q	L	Y	X	N	L	E	T	Z	I	H
C	Y	A	O	U	M	E	D	E	Y	S	K	Q	N
B	M	E	T	H	O	D	I	S	T	D	W	E	Y

Wesley	Writing Desk
Bookcase	Methodist
Quill	Hymn
Medicine	Ink
Electricity	Clock
Candles	Letters

## Then and Now

 Can you find the modern-day version of these things in your home?



Candle

Modern day:

.....



Chamber pot

Modern day:

.....



Travelling writing desk

Modern day:

.....



Samovar

Modern day:

.....

Bed pan

Modern day:

.....





## It's all in the detail...

If you look carefully around John Wesley's House you find lots of close-up details. Using a camera have a go at creating an I-spy trail of your own house for other people. You'll need to take close-up photos of different details around the house, you could also include any outside space you have. Once you've finished, challenge someone to find them all!

The images below are from our I-spy trail.



Our kitchen doesn't have...

**A sink or taps:** There was no running water in John Wesley's House, or in any other Georgian houses as plumbing (like taps and sewerage pipes) hadn't been invented. There would have been a well or pump nearby to get water from. Water would have been carried throughout the house as needed, but most was used in the basement for cooking and cleaning. We also have records or water being delivered to the House.

**Electrical appliances like kettles or toasters:** Many scientists of the day were doing experiments with electricity to find out more about it but people didn't really know how to use it. This meant there were no appliances and everything had to be done by hand including washing clothes, mixing cakes mixtures, cleaning floors and lighting candles and fires.

**Fridge:** As there was no electricity, there were no fridges. It was difficult to keep food fresh for longer than a few days. Not all houses had kitchens, but John Wesley's did. The kitchen, if there was one, was usually in the basement of the house (below street level) which was generally cooler. Some kitchens had cupboards built into stone walls to keep food cool (John Wesley's House doesn't have one of these). It's most likely that food that needed to stay cool would be kept in a walk-in cupboard, or larder, near a door to the outside.

**Cooker:** There is no cooker as cookers are a relatively modern invention. Ranges or stoves for cooking had been around in different forms long before the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but it wasn't until the 19<sup>th</sup> century that these became more common in houses. In this house they cooked over an open fire, the photo shows what it looks like.

**Fitted cupboards and kitchen sides:** There were no fitted cupboards, like we have today, to store items. Cupboards were usually big walk-in cupboards, or larders. Dressers like this one were used to display plates and for storage. This dresser in original to John Wesley's House. The table would be used to prepare food, it is also original to the House.



**Packets of food:** Food was not sold in colourful packets, jars and tins like it is today. This is because advertising food didn't become popular until the Victorian period (1837-1901). Also, there weren't as many factories to mass produce items like tins or jars; people reused jars and pots made of pottery.



# Wordsearch answers

D	R	T	O	K	W	E	S	L	E	Y	B	U	F
T	A	C	Z	E	M	L	H	I	G	H	R	P	T
F	Q	U	L	S	O	A	Y	T	K	X	O	T	S
I	E	I	K	S	E	D	G	N	I	T	I	R	W
J	F	A	T	R	I	T	J	F	C	I	O	E	N
O	M	A	V	K	T	C	H	E	A	D	M	L	E
Z	C	S	D	N	X	U	G	Y	B	O	O	E	C
P	A	E	N	I	C	I	D	E	M	D	L	C	B
R	Y	V	E	L	I	R	T	H	E	N	E	T	M
E	M	B	O	E	A	B	D	E	M	N	T	R	C
Q	N	C	M	T	I	O	H	D	I	S	R	I	T
U	K	G	Z	R	N	D	S	C	L	O	F	C	K
I	G	T	B	O	O	K	C	A	S	E	F	I	M
L	W	O	H	N	K	I	L	N	S	K	U	T	V
L	E	T	T	E	R	S	J	D	N	A	H	Y	M
F	S	V	Q	L	X	N	L	E	T	Z	I	H	
C	Y	A	O	U	M	E	D	E	Y	S	K	Q	N
B	M	E	T	H	O	D	I	S	T	D	W	E	Y

# Modern day equivalents



Candle  
Modern day:  
Light



Chamber pot  
Modern day:  
Toilet & wash  
basin



Bed pan  
Modern day:  
Hot water bottle or  
electric blanket.



Travelling writing  
desk  
Modern day:  
Tablet/computer



Samovar  
Modern day:  
Kettle or Urn – a  
modern kettle or urn  
heats water using  
electricity. Typically,  
samovars have a  
hollow core inside to  
add hot charcoal to  
make the water warm.