



Wesley's Wednesday Challenge



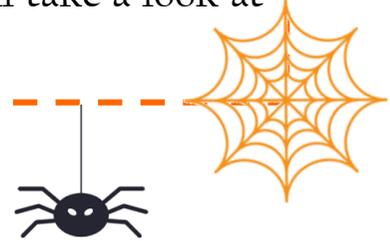
Spooky Stories



Hello and welcome to our October half-term Wesley's Wednesday Challenge!

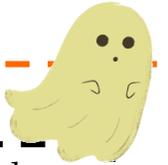
John Wesley was a Methodist minister and was one of the main founders of Methodism. He was born in 1703 in Epworth, Lincolnshire and died aged 87 in 1791. He lived at City Road in London from 1779-1791, in what is now John Wesley's House. The House is closed at the moment, but you can take a virtual look around [here](#).

The theme for this Challenge is 'Spooky Stories'. John Wesley had some spooky stories of his own which we'll be sharing, plus we'll take a look at some of the weird and wonderful items in our collection!



This is Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission. It was built in 1778 and is a Methodist church.

John Wesley was born in Epworth Rectory, you can still visit his childhood home. He was one of ten children, his mother was called Susanna, his father Samuel. When John Wesley was a young boy, away at school, the family that remained at home reported that they were being haunted! There were several letters written about it to John's older brother Samuel, and in 1720, John collected the accounts of those involved. The passage below involves John's mother and father, Susanna (Suky) and Samuel. Read it carefully and see if you can answer all the questions on the next page without looking again!



A few nights after, my father and mother were just gone to bed and the candle was not taken away, when they heard three blows, and a second, and a third three, as if a large oaken staff had struck upon a chest which stood by the bedside. My father immediately arose, put on his nightgown, and hearing great noises below, took the candle and went down. My mother walked by his side. As they went down the broad stairs, they heard as if a vessel full of silver was poured upon my mother's chest and ran jingling down to her feet.

Quickly after there was a sound as if a large iron ball was thrown among many bottles under the stairs. But nothing was hurt.

Soon after our large mastiff dog came and ran to shelter himself between them. While the disturbances continued, he used to bark and leap, before any person in the room heard any noise at all. But after two or three days, he used to tremble and creep away before the noise began. And by this, the family knew it was at hand; nor did the observation ever fail.

A little before my father and mother came into the hall, it seemed as if a very large coal was violently thrown upon the floor and dashed all in pieces. But nothing was seen.

My father then cried out, "Suky, do you not hear? All the pewter is thrown about in the kitchen." But when they looked, all the pewter stood in its place. There then was a loud knocking at the back door. My father opened it, but saw nothing. It was then at the fore door. He opened that; but it was still soft labour. After opening first the one, then the other several times, he turned and went up to bed. But the noises were so violent all over the house, that he could not sleep till four in the morning.



- 1) What time did John's father eventually get to sleep?
- 2) What kind of dog did the family have?
- 3) How many 'blows' did Samuel and Susanna hear when they went to bed?
- 4) What did they think they heard 'jingling down' to Susanna's feet?
- 5) What did they think had been thrown about in the kitchen?
- 6) What kind of ball had been thrown among the bottles under the stairs?
- 7) What warning meant that the noises were about to start?
- 8) What did John's father put on before leaving his bedroom?



The image on this jug shows the 'broad stair case' at Epworth referred to in the story.



The weird and wonderful!

We have lots of objects in our museum, some are a bit stranger than others! Learn more about the objects below, then have a go at the online puzzles to piece the images together!



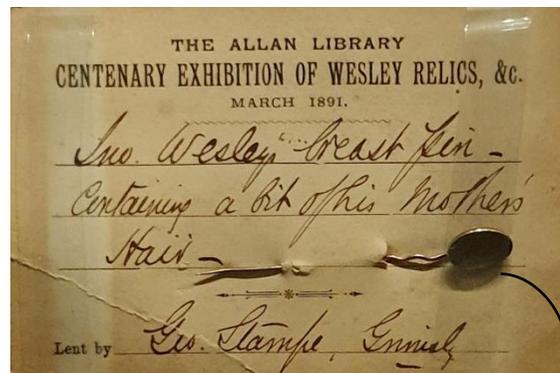
This is a bust of a Methodist preacher (a bust is a model of someone's head and shoulders), but it is made out of a cow's back bone! These types of 'busts' were much cheaper than having to buy ceramic busts, this one probably dates to between 1750-1830.

[Try the jigsaw puzzle.](#)

This is especially spooky, it's John Wesley's death mask. When a person died in the past, a cast of their face was sometimes taken to create a death mask. This is a copy of the original. Whilst it's a bit spooky, it's useful to us because as cameras weren't invented, this is the closest we'll get to knowing what John looked like in his old age.



[Try the jigsaw puzzle.](#)



Hair!

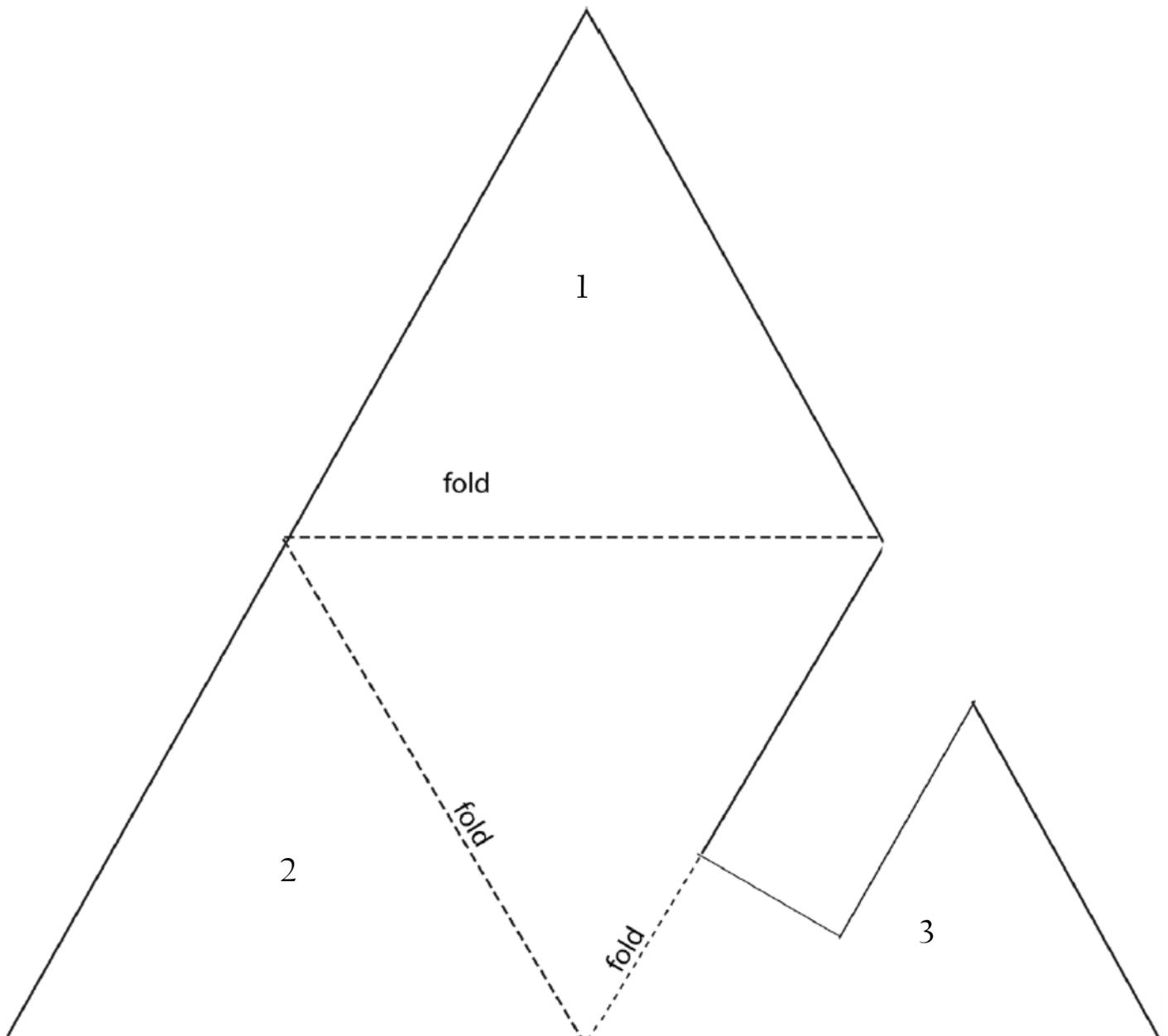
This is a decorative pin worn by John Wesley, but inside the oval shape, there is hair! It's the hair of Susanna, John's mother. It was common for people in the past to keep a loved one's hair to remember them. It seems a bit strange now though!

[Try the jigsaw puzzle.](#)

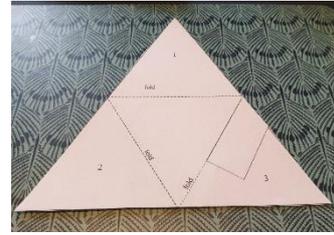
John Wesley's Travelling Lamp

To light the long winter nights, it was important to use lamps when you were out and about. In John Wesley's day, there were not street lights, apart from in the wealthiest areas, and London at night time could be a dangerous place! John Wesley used this travelling lamp when he visited different places. It helped him be seen, also helped him to see where he was going.

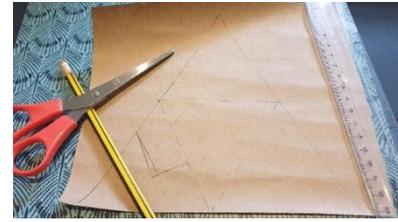
Use the template below to create your own lamp. You will need: Card or paper, a hole punch, an LED candle, scissors, tape, template below:



1) Print the template on the paper or card you'd like to use. You can also cut it out and draw around it on the paper you want to use. I copied it onto some brown paper I had, and then measured where the lines for the inner folds needed to be.



2) Cut out the template – ask an adult if you need help with this part.



3) Using a hole punch (or shaped hole punch if you have one) make several holes in the triangles labelled 1, 2 and 3.



4) Now, we need to stick the lantern together, you may need an adult to help with this. On what will be the inside of triangle 1, stick some sellotape down on the edge. Bring up triangle 2 and stick the edges together. Now do the same on the other side of triangle 1 and bring triangle 3 up. You might want to add a little tape to the other side to bring it closer together.



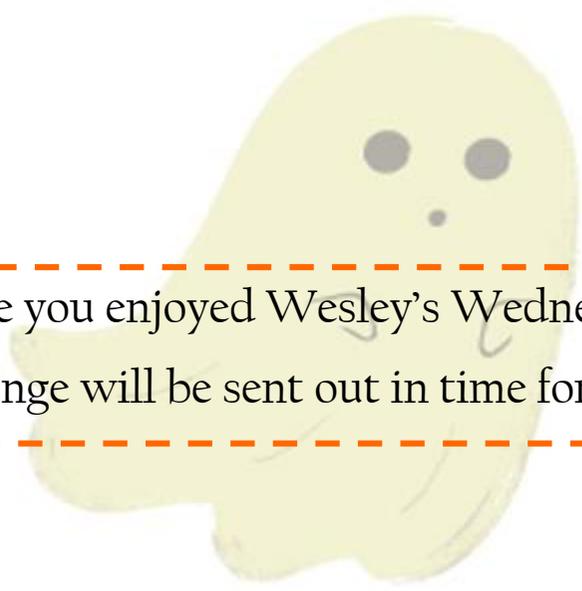
5) Your lamp is now ready for its candle! Make sure you use an electric tea light.



Spot the cats!

There are 6 black cats hiding in John Wesley's candlelit study. Can you find them all?





We hope you enjoyed Wesley's Wednesday Challenge!

The next Challenge will be sent out in time for the Christmas Holiday

Answers:

- 1) What time did John's father eventually get to sleep? **4 o'clock in the morning**
- 2) What kind of dog did the family have? **A large mastiff dog**
- 3) How many 'blows' did Samuel and Susanna hear when they went to bed? **Nine (three sets of three)**
- 4) What did they think they heard 'jingling down' to Susanna's feet? **A vessel full of silver**
- 5) What did they think had been thrown about in the kitchen? **Their pewter**
- 6) What kind of ball had been thrown among the bottles under the stairs? **A large iron ball**
- 7) What warning meant that the noises were about to start? **The dog would tremble and creep away before the noise began**
- 8) What did John's father put on before leaving his bedroom? **His nightgown**

