

Local History

Historic England and Teacher's Pet have come together to bring you a collection of free resources that you can use in your local history teaching.



Historic England



Teacher's Pet

Who are Teacher's Pet?

Teacher's Pet have been providing downloadable and playable educational content to early years and primary school teachers for over 14 years. We cover all areas of the curriculum and use a team of in-house teachers and designers to create engaging and memorable concepts, that the children will love.

Why local history?

At [Teacher's Pet](#) we want to empower primary school teachers by giving them the tools they need to deliver inspiring and thoughtful lessons about the local area and its history. We believe local history teaching has such an important part to play in a child's wellbeing – helping to give children a sense of pride in where they live.

Our Local History project is designed to provide teachers across the UK with everything they need to successfully carry out a full scheme of teaching about their local area, through key enquiry questions and source led activities.

Working with [Historic England](#) gives us access to archived maps and photos for resources and information from knowledgeable local historians, as well helping us to provide the content to you free of charge.

For more information about our Local History project or to find out more about Teacher's Pet Classroom Resources, please visit our website.



How did the industrial revolution change Luton?

A Bonnet Sewer's Complaint

The Luton Straw work is very bad,
Which makes us feel quite down and sad;
We sit and work from morn to night
For a penny a hat! Now is it right?
The buyers they do crush us so,
They want the hats so very low,
So if it does not better come,
I cannot think what will be done.
When Monday comes we pledge our clothes
To buy our plait, and then begin to sew;
When down the street we take them, as before,
And sell for three and a farthing, or a little more.
And since machines have had the run,
The work has been much cheaper done,
For a penny farthing hats are sold
To the Luton buyers, I am told.
Then to the "Bell" and "George" they go
To take their wine for lunch, you know,
And there they sit, and laugh, and talk,
And say how cheap some hats we've bought!
And then to the seaside they go,
To recruit their health! Isn't it so?
While we poor slaves are working here,
To help them on another year,
For out of our hard labour comes
Their luxuries and splendid homes!
And everyday we feel it more -
Stitching until our limbs are sore
And ache. But they don't care
For our empty cupboards, I can swear!
But what we want is a medium price,
To buy more food, and something nice.

25th November 1882 - The Luton Reporter





How did the industrial revolution change Luton?

Poem Analysis

1. What mood is the writer trying to portray in the poem?

2. Why do you think they feel this way?

3. "We pledge our clothes, to buy our plait."
What do you think is meant by this phrase?

4. How does the writer feel about the arrival of machines?

5. What is the poet asking for?





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