

Museums
& Galleries
Edinburgh

Museum of Edinburgh
& People's Story

MUSEUM OF EDINBURGH & PEOPLE'S STORY

Second level



Brief history of both buildings

- Museum of Edinburgh used to be called Huntly House and was made up from several buildings.
- It is over 400 years old. Back in 1517 it was not one single building but three. In 1570, they were combined into a single building. Whilst this work happened, they extended the front of the building by 10 foot (into the street).
- A popular name for building was 'The Speaking House' – **can you see why this might be?**
- The main front door for the property was not at the front, rather it is through the Bakehouse Courtyard and to the right. This was a security feature of many older properties.

Can you find the original front door?

- The People's Story Museum used to be called the Canongate Tolbooth. This building is over 400 years old! It was built for Sir Lewis Bellenden.

- This was once the main hub for the local area- the building had many uses including: a courthouse, a jail, a town council meeting place, tolls and tax collection, later being used as a fire station, library, registrar office, reading room and police office – it also incorporated living spaces!

Can you see any evidence of the building's past?

Which animal can you see forming part of the crest?

Why do you think this animal was chosen?

SPEND SOME TIME LOOKING AT THE TWO BUILDINGS

Museum of Edinburgh

Look for the original front door (*go through the Bakehouse Courtyard*).

What language are the signs on the front of the museum written in?

What do you think they say?

The People's Story Museum

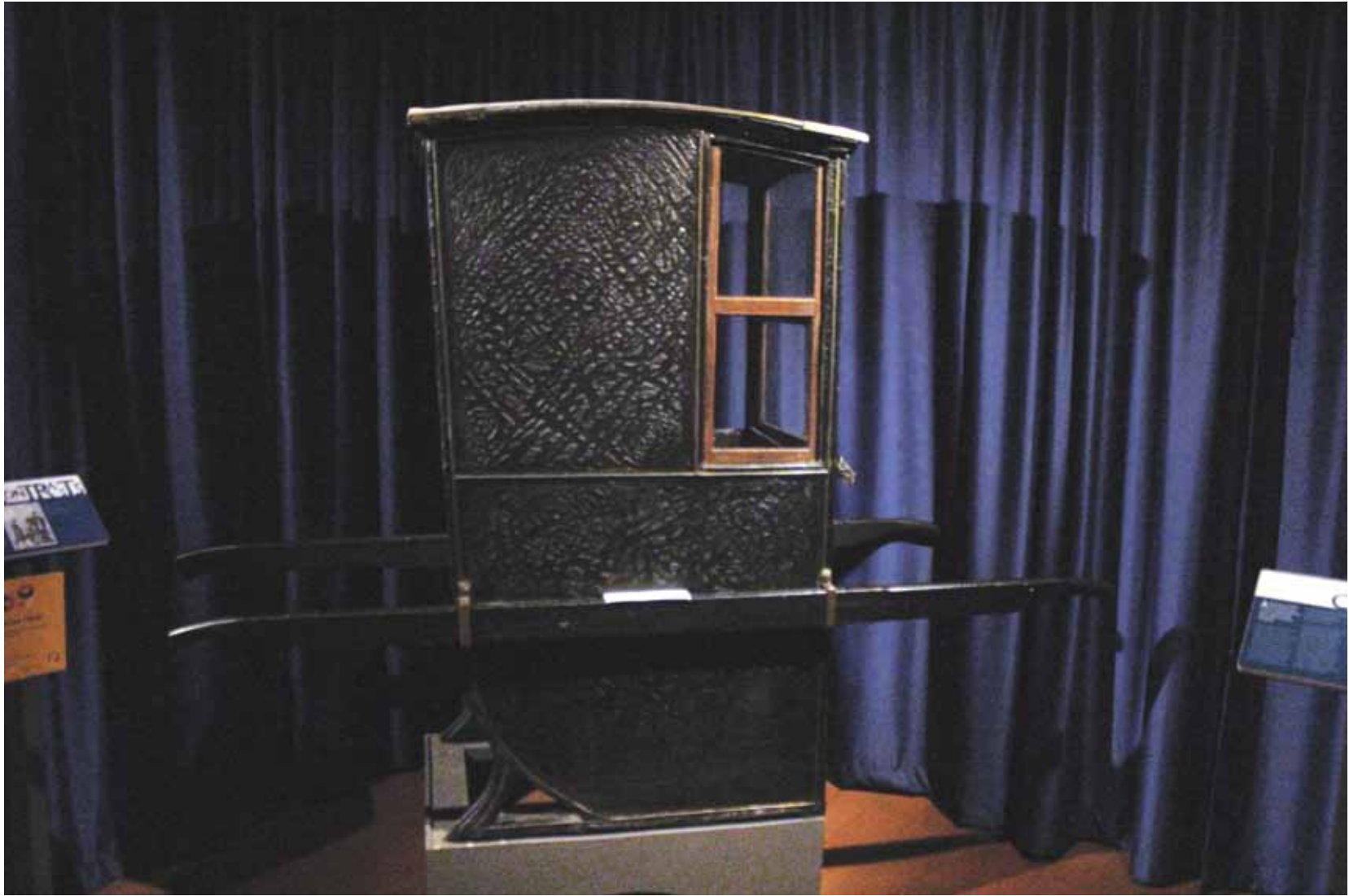
Distinguishing features – the clock, the bars on the windows, various entrances, the stag etc.

What similarities do the two buildings share?

What do you think the museums will be about?

Why do you think the museums are linked for this trail?





GALLERY 1

The Museum of Edinburgh

The Museum of Edinburgh has two entrances, either through the shop (directly from the street) or via the courtyard.

To access the museum you climb a set of spiral stairs.

Please note that Gallery 1 has low level lighting for conservation purposes.

Take care in the museum- be aware that there are odd steps, low ceiling height, small rooms and narrow doorways throughout.

This gallery has information and artefacts which highlight different aspects of Edinburgh city- all contributing to make it into the city you see today: ideas, arts, contrasts, power, pageantry and trade.

Questions

What were these sedan chairs for?

Why didn't people want to walk?

How many people do you think could fit inside?

Do you think they were comfortable?

Why do you think this?

How did they move?

Please do not touch any of the objects on display.

Much of the Old Town was accessible via small, narrow wynds and closes – normal carriages could not fit these tight spaces but the wealthy people would not want to walk through the streets (they were crowded and filthy). Therefore, there were many sedan chairs available to hire, along with their 'chairmen' - there were 2 men per sedan. Some wealthy people owned their own sedans.

This sedan is an 18th century painted wooden one.

There is a surviving sedan shed just along the road at Tweeddale Court which you can still see.



Some extra information about sedans and fares.

Taken from: www.bbc.co.uk/ahistory-oftheworld/objects/y_U8R2HIRaeDU3l-H26BPMA

Edinburgh fares listed in 1768 show suggested fees of:

6d (2.5p) for any journey within the city

1 shilling and 6d (7.5p) for a journey which went half a mile out of the city

4 shillings (20p) for a whole day

Can you find anything else in this room which is interesting?



GALLERY 2

The National Covenant

Heading to **Gallery 3**, you pass through **Gallery 2** and the **National Covenant**.

Due to the significance of the National Covenant, it is worth taking a look as you make your way through. This is a copy of the covenant signed in 1638.

Fun to learn how they made the parchment (although possibly a tad gruesome).

Parchment was made from animal skin, it would be soaked in a lime solution which would help remove the fur and then the skin was stretched and scraped over several days before being used. On this one you can see a cut, (stitched) in the top right corner, this was probably made when the deer was slaughtered.

There is an interactive screen if you want to look at more information about this turbulent period of Scottish history.

There is a Lobster-Tail Helmet (from 1700) as would have been worn by the Covenanters and a Basket-hilted Sword (again c.1700) on display.

There is a painting of condemned covenanters on their way to execution (again possibly a bit gruesome).

GOOD TO KNOW:

There is a room just off Gallery 3 (called the Pinkie Room), whilst this is a small space – it provides a quiet corner within the museum.





GALLERY 3 (AND THE PINKIE ROOM)

The Old Town

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THERE ARE IRREGULAR STEPS AND LOW CEILING HEIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE MUSEUM.

Spend some time in this gallery and encourage your group to use the information in the cases and on the walls to try and find answers to the questions below.

Why was the Old Town called Auld Reekie?

Toilets of the Old Town.

Can you find the toilet in this room?

What does it look like?

Why did they use chamber pots?

Once people had been to the toilet in the chamber pot, what did they do with waste?

When did they get rid of the waste?

What does 'Gardyloo' mean?

Why did they throw the waste out of the windows?

Why would it be a bad idea to throw rubbish and waste products out of the windows?

Why did this stop happening?

Shoes and Pattens

What were the shoes made from?

Are they the same as shoes you wear today?

How are they the same? How are they different?

What are pattens?

Why were they necessary?

Do you think they would work?

Thinking about the pattens, the shoes and the chamber pot that you have seen in this gallery – how do they link to the sedan chairs from Gallery 1?





GALLERY 4

Model of the Old Town

Look at the models of the Royal Mile.
You can use the information from the displays around the room to help you answer the questions.

Questions

Does the Royal Mile look the same now as it did in the past?

What are the similarities?

What are the differences?

(Don't forget you can look out of the window to help compare).

Can you spot the Museum of Edinburgh and the People's Story?

Do the museums still look the same today? How have they changed?

Can you spot the church (on the model) - does anyone know what this church is called?

Can you find out why this part of the Royal Mile was called the Canongate?

What do you think it was like living in the Old Town?

Use evidence from the rest of this gallery to help answer this question.

Some helpful ideas: think about the sights, smells, sounds, people, weather and how busy it was.

Would you have liked to live in the Old Town back then? Why?

Why was the Old Town called 'Auld Reekie'?

Why did the city grow upwards rather than outwards?





Water, waste and defenses!

PLEASE BE AWARE THIS IS A NARROW AREA OF THE MUSEUM.

Please spend time using the information panels to try and find the answers to these questions.

Why is water important?

When was the first piped water supply introduced into Edinburgh?

What were the pipes made from?

Where did this water come from?

How did the water manage to travel to the city?

What measures were put in place to stop the wells drying up?

How did more wealthy people get the water into their homes?

What were the four animals at Comiston Spring House? And what were they for?

Name three diseases that are caused by poor water and insanitary conditions?

Which disease was particularly bad in 1832?

How many people died from this disease?

- Using the information panels in this room try to answer these questions.

What do you think this room might have been in the past?

How did they get the water to the kitchen?

Do you think cooking here would have been easy or hard?

Why do you think this?

Look for the chute where they would throw the waste?

It was probably a kitchen - because of the stone floor and fireplace. The fireplace has evidence of many iron hooks - from which the cooking cauldrons were hung.

This room had a waste chute - so rather than opening a window and throwing all the waste out of the window, they were able to dispose of their waste down this chute.

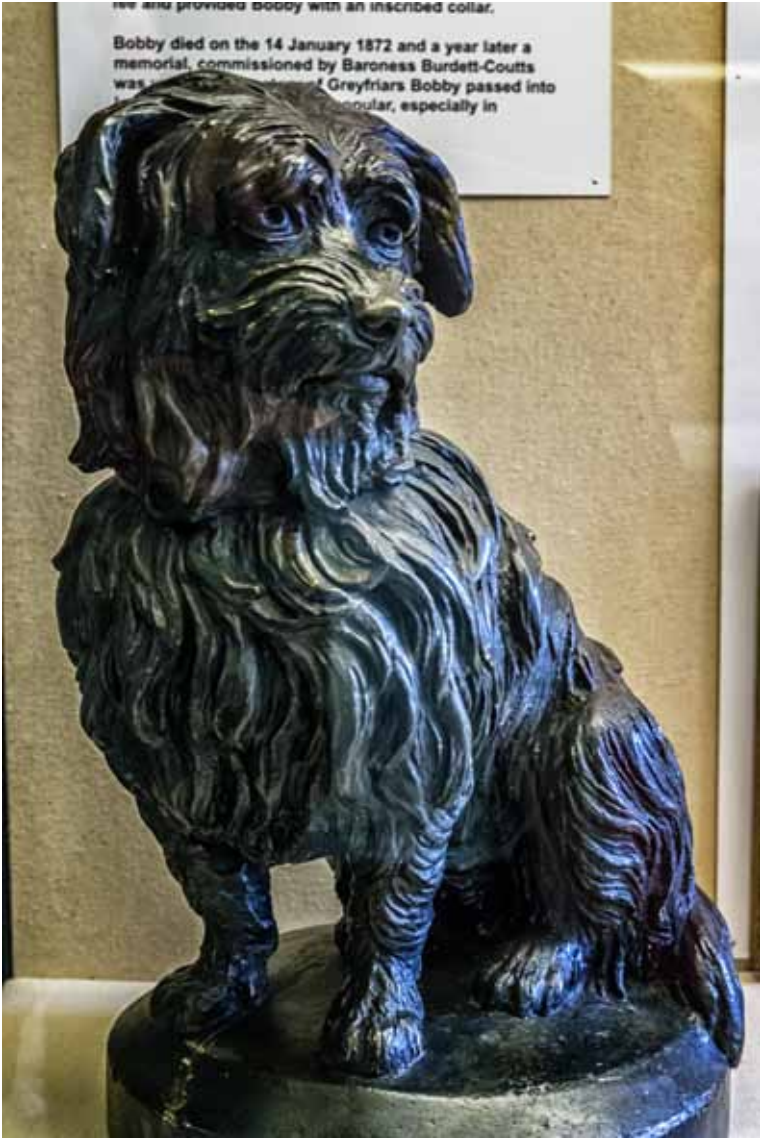
What is a loophole? Why did this building have a loophole?

Loopholes were part of the defensive structure of a building - needed because Scotland was a dangerous and turbulent place to live right up until the 19th century. You can see many signs of defensive architecture throughout Scotland, including castles, forts, pele towers, fortified houses to protect inhabitants - as seen here and in other places in the Old Town.

Be sure to get down and have a good look at the loophole. What can you see?



... and provided Bobby with an inscribed collar.
Bobby died on the 14 January 1872 and a year later a
memorial, commissioned by Baroness Burdett-Coutts
was placed in the churchyard of Greyfriars Bobby passed into
popular, especially in



GALLERY 5

Local legends, the New Town Gallery and more

Before heading across the road to **The People's Story Museum** - there are some more fascinating galleries which highlight different aspects of Edinburgh's incredible past.

There are wonderful displays of **Silver and Long Clocks** which lead you to the New Town Gallery – this gallery includes information about how the New Town came to be. It builds on the knowledge already gained about the Old Town and furthers understanding about how and why Edinburgh is the city it is today.

In the **New Town Gallery** – it explains about the competition to design the new city, won by **James Craig**. Two of his designs are on display at certain times through the day.

In **Gallery 8** there is a case highlighting the legendary story of **Greyfriars Bobby**.

There are further galleries showing a large collection from **Haig (WW1)**, **period costumes**, **pottery** and **glassware**.

To recap:

- People threw waste into the streets (calling Gardyloo).
- The streets were narrow and close together.
- People used sedan chairs to be transported through the city.
- Rich people had lovely clothes and shoes.
- Shoes had protective pattens to keep them from getting dirty.
- Wealthy people had servants to help them.
- The city was busy and noisy. There was much illness.
- Buildings had gunloops and security measures.
- There was no running water into the houses - you had to get it from fountains on the street.



Check by Jowl

Each building on Kent Island must qualify. The parents assigned the top and bottom houses alike "the guests and better sort of people" back to the middle.



GALLERY 1

The People's Story Museum

Look for the illustration of the 'Old Town' house highlighting how people used to live 'cheek by jowl'. This example is from the 1700s. Using the information available to you in this section of the museum, answer these questions:

Questions

What is surprising about the example of the living arrangements for people in the Old Town?

Who lived in the house?

What kinds of jobs did they have?

Were they all the same kind of jobs/ people?

Can you find Alexander, Katherine and Janet?

What do you think about this family?

Are they wealthy or poor?

What jobs do they have?

What do you think about the diet they have?

Do you think they were healthy?

What factors contributed to their health?

What game is Janet playing?

Does she go to school?



THE NEXT SECTION OF THE TRAIL LOOKS AT CRIME AND PUNISHMENT. THIS STARTS HERE IN THIS AREA OF THE MUSEUM AND THEN MOVES ROUND THE CORNER.



GALLERY 2

Crime and punishment

Use the information available and things you already know to answer these questions.

Questions

Can you find the punishment for robbery?

Do you think this is a severe punishment?

Are there any other punishments which surprise you?

Which ones?

Were punishments for crimes back then the same as the punishments for crimes now?

How have they changed?

Do you think punishments are better then or now?

Why?

What tool was used to catch suspects who were fleeing?

Do you think this was effective?

- There is a man holding a scroll of paper (yellowed colour), wearing a hat and uniform.

Who was this person?

What was his job?

Why was this job so important and crucial?

Why might this person sometimes need guards to protect him?



CONTINUE ROUND THE CORNER TO ANSWER THE NEXT FEW QUESTIONS



GALLERY 3

The prison cell

Use the information available, knowledge you already have and what you can see to help you answer the questions below.

Questions

What was one of the main purposes of this building?

Describe what being in a cell here would have been like?

What were conditions like?

Who is in the cell?

What were their crimes?

Do the punishments fit the crimes?

Do you think that the old justice system was fair or not?

What is odd about the inhabitants?

How is this different from prisons today?

Do you think that prisons today are better or worse than this cell?



HEAD UPSTAIRS AND BEAR LEFT INTO THE LARGE ROOM. AS YOU MOVE INTO THIS ROOM, YOU WILL PASS SOME OF THE OLD DOORS OF THE BUILDING. IT IS INTERESTING TO HAVE A QUICK LOOK AT THEM AS YOU PASS BY.

THIS LARGE ROOM HIGHLIGHTS THE MANY TRADES AND JOBS OF EDINBURGH THROUGH THE YEARS – IT ALSO FOCUSES ON CHANGES IN WORKING CONDITIONS AND HOW THE LIVES OF PEOPLE HAVE CHANGED WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME.



GALLERY 4

Trades and jobs in Edinburgh

Work in small groups and see how many different jobs you can find represented in this room?
Were there any jobs that you hadn't heard of before? Which one/ ones? Can you find the fishwife and the servant?

Questions

The life of a fishwife in 1953.

What time does Peggy start her day?

How many hours a day does Peggy work?

What does her husband do?

How many kids does she have?

How old was she when she started to work?

Why did she decide to do this job?

How old is she now?

How long has she worked?

What kind of clothes does she wear?

How heavy was her creel when full? Is this heavy?

The life of a domestic servant in 1933.

What time does Annie start her day?

Does Annie have a husband?

Why did this kind of work become less popular?

- Take a look around this room and write down some key information about some of the jobs that interest you.

Are any of the jobs from the past still the same today?

In what ways are they the same?

How are they different?

What caused these changes?

What were the biggest changes to working conditions?

What were the biggest changes to types of jobs/ trades?

What are the main jobs in Edinburgh now?

If you are unsure - have a look online once you get back to school.



HEAD OUT OF THIS ROOM - BACK TO THE STAIRCASE. DIRECTLY AHEAD OF YOU ARE THE TOILETS.
TAKE THE STAIRS ON THE RIGHT HAND SIDE.



GALLERY 5

The washhouse

Questions

Wash House

- Look at the washhouse scene.
Use the information gathered in the Museum of Edinburgh (about water) and try to answer these questions.

What was a washhouse and why were they needed?
Why did they close the washhouses?
Is there anything like this now?

Kitchen

- Look at the kitchen scene.
What differences can you see when you compare this to your kitchen at home?
What era does this kitchen show?
Note down anything interesting from this scene.

Grove House

- Look at the Grove House scene.
What was Grove House?
Who was it for?
Is there anything like this today?
Do you think having places like Grove House is a good idea? Why?

Heading through to the next room:

- What illnesses caused the most deaths in Edinburgh?**
Why do you think these were so prolific in Edinburgh?
When did the NHS begin?
Why did this help?
What else helped?



To sum up:

- Think about the Edinburgh that you discovered at the start of this trail.**
- What changes did the city go through?**
- What were the biggest changes and why did they happen?**
- Do you think life in Edinburgh is better now or then? Why?**
- What was your favourite thing that you learnt today?**

THERE IS A VIDEO UPSTAIRS IN THE PEOPLE'S STORY MUSEUM WHICH IS INTERESTING TO WATCH - SOME OF THE PEOPLE SPEAKING CONTRIBUTED TO THE INFORMATION WHICH IS ON DISPLAY IN THE MUSEUM. IT WILL ALSO FURTHER THE UNDERSTANDING ABOUT HOW EDINBURGH HAS CHANGED.