# Victorian Fur Fashion

## **Topic** Session Aims:

- Practice reading 19<sup>th</sup>- and 21<sup>st</sup>-century non-fiction (articles)
- Explore attitudes and viewpoints in texts
- Analyse language to identify attitudes in texts

### Resources

Resource A for Starter and Resource B ('Fashions' article from the *Graphic*, 1891). See pages 3 and 4.

21<sup>st</sup>-century text: <u>http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/faux-fur-bad-for-</u> environment\_uk\_5811e85be4b04660a4382330

Links with digital revision resource: 'Murderous Millinery' slide in Section 3.				
Timing	Teacher-led Activity	Learner Tasks (Linked to Learning Outcome)	Monitoring / Assessment (of Learner activity and/or learning outcome)	
5-10 mins	Introduction: Show images of current fashion models wearing fur (Resource A). Students to write down whether they think the fur is real or fake/faux for each image shown in turn i.e. on PowerPoint slides. Reveal that all three are examples of faux fur. Open up discussion about why real fur has been used in fashion and why it has been largely replaced with faux fur now. What do students think about this?	Discussion stimulated by images.	Verbal feedback	
20 mins	Reading 21 <sup>st</sup> -century non- fiction: 'Why Faux Fur Shouldn't Be Fast Fashion' http://www.huffingtonpost .co.uk/entry/faux-fur-bad- for- environment_uk_5811e85b e4b04660a4382330	Students to read the article as a class or individually for exam practice. Students should highlight negative attitudes and reasons not to use faux fur found in the text as they read. <b>Practice exam question</b> : 'How does the writer use language to try to convince the reader that faux fur is bad for the environment?' (12 marks) Each student picks one word / phrase/ sentence to analyse as a practice exam paragraph.	Peer marking: Students use a basic mark scheme to mark each others' paragraphs and make suggestions for improvements.	
10 mins	Reading 19 <sup>th</sup> -century non- fiction:	Students listen to the 1891 text 'Fashions' being read by teacher	Answers from text:	

	Explain how fur fashion became popular in Britain during the Victorian period as a symbol of wealth and luxury related to the success of the British Empire. Introduce the 1891 text 'Fashions' (Resource B).	and build a bubble plan* adding each type of fur or animal skin that is mentioned. (Alternatively, students could be asked to select four facts from the text, as practice for early exam questions.)	<ul> <li>Fox</li> <li>Rabbit</li> <li>Swansdown</li> <li>Persian lambskin / lambskin cloth</li> <li>Sealskin</li> <li>Seal plush</li> <li>Beaver cloth</li> <li>Bearskin cloth</li> <li>Discuss difference between using animals that are farmed anyway and exotic or wild animals.</li> </ul>
		*Bubble plan:	
15 mins	Closer reading of text to identify attitudes. Facilitate discussion about how the writer shows fur is useful for both practical and aesthetic reasons.	In pairs: Re-read the text, highlighting 2-4 sentences that show that the writer of this article has a positive attitude to fur being used for fashion. Students might also want to circle any words or phrases that are difficult to understand while reading.	Pairs feedback. Suggested sentences: 'It is a real pleasure to look at the little mites clothed in white of cream plush with deep wadded capes, bordered with fox, rabbit, or other skins' 'prettiest of all, white Persian lambskin' 'Very stylish mantles and paletots are made in sealskin and seal plush'
5 mins	19 <sup>th</sup> -century language check	Students to add unfamiliar words to the whiteboard Discuss 19 <sup>th</sup> -century language i.e. damsel, knickerbockers, perambulator	Students could rate how hard this text was to read. (Keep a log as they look through a range of texts in different lessons.)

Section 3 of the digital resource 'Hardy and his friends' explores how changing attitudes at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> and start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century meant that more people protested against animals being used in fashion (See 'Murderous Millinery').

# **Resource A**





### **Resource B**

### FASHIONS

THE first month of the year has again come round, and we turn our attention to the children of our readers, ascending upwards from the baby, who only cares to be warmly clad and fed, to the nearly grown-up damsel, who studies the fashions, and abides by the smallest details thereof. Never were our babies, from one month to three years old, so luxuriously cared for as at the present period. It is a real pleasure to look at the little mites clothed in white or cream plush, velvet, serge, or cashmere, with deep wadded capes. bordered with fox, rabbit, or other skins; swansdown, which, by the way, is very trying to tiny noses, and, prettiest of all, white Persian lambskin, trims the capes and hats or bonnets of the little ones, and enables them to face the coldest weather, and to take their daily drives abroad, instead of being shut up in the house all the winter through. It is very easy to keep our babies warm whilst they are content to remain in their perambulators, but as soon as they rebel and insist upon walking our troubles begin. The first consideration is underclothing which combines warmth, flexibility, and lightness. These three requisites are to be found in the natural wool combinations; the only drawback to these comfortable garments is that when the short petticoated wearers dance and jump about glimpses of the drab clothing are not pretty under the white or pale-coloured frocks. To meet this difficulty full knickerbockers of Liberty silk or fine Saxony flannel, should be worn - white, cream-coloured, or to match exactly the hue of the costumes with which they are to be worn-fastened under the knees, and trimmed with lace or silk embroidery, or a band of white fur; ribbed woollen stockings, high leather boots, lined and trimmed at the top with fur, cork soles or socks. Thus protected no healthy child will be huit by a good scamper through the snow; its short garments are a decided advantage in muddy or snowy weather as they keep dry.

Very stylish mantles and paletots are made in sealskin and seal plush, but they are not so durable as the various makes of woollen materials which have been brought out this season. Beaver cloth, bearskin cloth, lambskin cloth, and other warm varieties make up very stylishly for the young people; our readers cannot do better than send for patterns of the latest novelties in outdoor coats, as it is easy and economical to make them at home.