



Sherlock Holmes Web Quest: The Case of the Stolen Records

Welcome to 221b Baker Street, the residence of London's most famous detective, Sherlock Holmes. It's a good thing you stopped by. Holmes has just been handed a very difficult case, and he needs your help. He's received word that someone has stolen information about Victorian England and hidden it on the internet. In his hasty escape, the culprit appears to have left behind some very useful clues, which means there is still hope of recovering the lost information if you act quickly. To perform this task, you will need to go out and explore Victorian London for yourself, as well as your own country in the late 19th century. Follow the clues below to find the lost information. You should record your findings by answering the questions after each clue. Remember, this information is very important, and Holmes is counting on you to help him recover it and bring the culprit to justice. There's no time to lose - grab your magnifying glass and start searching the web!

Facts about Sherlock Holmes

First, you'll need to know a little bit about the man you're working for. Go to his website at <http://www.sherlockian.net> and <http://www.mysterynet.com/holmes/> and click on the links to find out more about Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, their Baker Street home, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Answer the questions below for your records.

1. What is Sherlock Holmes' job?
2. What items does Holmes usually have with him?
3. Who is Dr. Watson?
4. What line connected to Dr. Watson is Holmes famous for saying?
4. Who wrote the Sherlock Holmes stories?
5. In what year, city, and country was Sir Author Conan Doyle born?
6. Besides being an author, what else did he do?
7. In what year was Hound of the Baskervilles published?

To help you understand the "fame" of Sherlock Holmes and his creator, Sir Author Conan Doyle, visit the web address: <http://www.trussel.com/detfic/sholmes.htm> to view stamps created in their honor.

1. Name at least two countries who have issued stamps honoring Sherlock Holmes.
2. What hotel is featured on one stamp?

Clue 1—Now you're ready to help Holmes in his search for the lost information. The first clue discovered at Buckingham Palace, is a web address:



<http://www2.lhric.org/pocantico/womenenc/victoria.htm>

Visit this address and see if you can find enough information to answer the following questions:

1. Who was the Victorian period named after?
2. How long did the Queen rule England?
3. When did her reign begin and when did it end?
4. Who was Victoria's husband?

Clue 2—Now that you know a little bit about Queen Victoria, it's time to leave Buckingham Palace and learn about everyday life in London during her rule. Your second clue is "Victorian Homework Resources," which is located at

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/homework/victorians/children/working.htm>

The Victorian period is famous because it was a time of many important changes for the British people.

1. What were some of the changes that were happening?
2. Did rich people have comfortable lives?
3. Did poor people?
4. Did most children go to school in Victorian times?
5. What did they do if they didn't go to school?
6. Would you like to live in a poor house? Why or why not?



Clue 3

Another web address

http://chertseymuseum.org/domains/chertseymuseum.org.uk/local/media/images/museum/All_About_..._Victorian_Toys.pdf was discovered in a Victorian schoolhouse. Read the information and look at the pictures. Then use them to answer the questions below.

1. What were some of the most common toys for Victorian children to play with?
2. What toys do they remind you of that are used today?
3. If you were a child in Victorian times, what would you do for fun?
4. Do you think that the lives of Victorian children were very different from your life today?

Clue 4 –As you explore Victorian England, you might notice that the people are dressed very differently from the way people dress in your country today. Information about Victorian fashion is very important. As people got paid more and had to work less, they began to spend more time and money worrying about nice clothes. Go to “Fashions of the 1870’s” at

<http://romancereaderatheart.com/victorian/timeline/1870/index.html>

to see some pictures of Victorian fashion.



1. Name three differences between a typical Victorian dress and a typical dress of today.

2. If you lived in Victorian times, what would you wear?

Clue 5 & 6 –Your fifth clue is another web address:

http://www.hyperhistory.com/online_n2/History_n2/a.html

this will take you to HyperHistory’s Online main page. Written under this address is the word “timeline.” Holmes found a timeline by clicking on the “History” button on the left and then clicking on the “1500- 2004” link that appeared on the right. Follow his steps and take a look at it yourself. Find the “Victorian Age” on

the European timeline and look at the events written above and below it.

1. What historical events were happening in your country during the Victorian Age?

While exploring the Victorian Age, Holmes noticed some footsteps that looked suspiciously familiar. He followed them and found a web address

http://bakerstreet.wikia.com/wiki/James_Moriarty which leads to “Professor Moriarty’s Secret Lair.” Go to Moriarty’s hideout and learn more about Holmes’ enemy. Then see if you can answer the following questions.

1. What is Professor Moriarty’s relationship with Holmes?

2. Why is it so hard for Holmes to catch Moriarty?

3. In which Sherlock Holmes stories does Moriarty appear?



Clue 7 –Holmes suspects that Moriarty is responsible for the lost information. No one knows where the professor was on the night that it disappeared. He was seen in Canterbury, a town 50 miles away from London, the day before. Could he have travelled from Canterbury to London in only one day? To find out, you’ll need to look at transportation in Victorian times.

<http://www.victorianweb.org/technology/railways/railway3.html>

and look at the different ways of getting around.

1. What was the fastest way to travel in Victorian times?

2. How did most people travel?

Visit <http://www.highwheel.8m.net> to find out:

3. What other method could one use to travel around town in Victorian times?

Closing the Case

Now that you've recovered most of the information and Professor Moriarty has been brought to justice, all that's left to do is a brief summary of the case for the records.

1. What was the greatest difference between present day and the times in which Sherlock Holmes lived?
2. What would be the most exciting thing about being a detective?
3. What would you miss the most if you lived in the Victorian Age?
4. What does it take to be good at solving mysteries?

GOOD JOB!

Well, that wraps up this case. Sherlock Holmes will be very grateful You've done an excellent job, and it looks like you might have a promising future as a detective. Congratulations on solving your first mystery.