



ENGLISH HERITAGE
EDUCATION



KS2

ACTIVITY TRAIL

Apsley House

This pack will help teachers take their class on an interactive tour of Apsley House. The rooms, paintings and objects at Apsley House provide essential insight into the Battle of Waterloo, a key turning point in British history. Use this pack before and during your visit to help pupils get the most out of their learning.



INCLUDED:

- Teachers' Guide
- Teachers' Cheat Sheet
- House Floor Plan
- Pupil Activity Trail

GET IN TOUCH WITH OUR EDUCATION BOOKINGS TEAM:

☎ 0370 333 0606

✉ bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk

🌐 bookings.english-heritage.org.uk/education

Don't forget to download our **Hazard Information Sheets** to help with planning.

Share your visit with us on Twitter **@EHEducation**

Step into England's story

ACTIVITY TRAIL

TEACHERS' GUIDE

KS2

Recommended for

KS2 (History, English, Art)

Learning objectives

WHAT: observe key features of the rooms at Apsley House and understand what they tell us about the Duke of Wellington and the Battle of Waterloo.

HOW: explore Apsley House, handle objects and apply skills of enquiry, observation and imagination.

OUTCOME: reach supported conclusions about the Battle of Waterloo.

Time to complete

Approx. 1 hour 15 minutes



The handling objects are kept in Wellington boot-shaped bags, which need to be booked before your visit.

PRE-VISIT

The KS2 Activity Trail booklet gives pupils things to find, points to discuss and questions to answer, with space to draw and write. Pupils can get hands-on in each room with a bag of objects linking to the activities. There are eight object bags in total; we recommend that one bag should be shared by three or four pupils.

Please use the Education Bookings Team contact details to enquire about booking the object bags.

We have also provided a Cheat Sheet for adults leading the Activity Trail, with background information, facts about each room, a reminder of which objects to use and answers to the questions.

PRIOR LEARNING

We recommend doing the following before your visit:

- Make sure pupils are familiar with the Duke of Wellington and Napoleon Bonaparte.
- Find out more about the Battle of Waterloo by watching our **timeline** video on YouTube (1 min 50 sec) [\[youtu.be/dSDNGbKjj8o\]](https://youtu.be/dSDNGbKjj8o)

PREPARATION AND RESOURCES

You will find the KS2 Activity Trail at the back of this pack. Please photocopy enough for your class and bring them with you to Apsley House.

In order to create an A5 booklet, you'll need to do the following in your Print settings:

1. Select size A4 and choose the landscape orientation.
2. Select a page range of 11–16 (to avoid printing multiple teachers' sheets).
3. Select 'Print on both sides of the paper' and 'Flip on short edge'.
4. Arrange the printed sheets in page order and fold into a booklet.

ACTIVITY TRAIL

TEACHERS' GUIDE



A view of Apsley House from across the road.

AT THE HOUSE

WHEN YOU GET HERE

- When you arrive, go to the front desk and ask to collect your pre-booked object bags (please book in advance to avoid disappointment).
- You'll be shown to the education space in the basement where pupils can drop their bags and collect clipboards (there are 24 available).
- In the education space, hand out the Activity Trails and make sure everyone has got a pencil. Please note: pupils must use pencil only.
- Please remind pupils that other visitors will be using the house and ask them not to block doorways, staircases and thoroughfares.
- If you have any questions as you lead pupils around the house, our volunteers and staff will be on hand to help.

POST-VISIT

POST-VISIT ACTIVITIES

We've suggested some post-visit activities at the end of the trail.

We'd love to see any work your pupils create after their visit. Tweet us **@EHEducation** or post/email it to us and we'll display it in the education room at Apsley House.

To find out more about the **history of Apsley House**, please visit: www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/apsley-house/history

ACTIVITY TRAIL

CHEAT SHEET

BACKGROUND

On 18 June 1815, the Battle of Waterloo was fought just outside the town of Waterloo, in the country we now know as Belgium. The Duke of Wellington's British army joined forces with other European armies, including the Prussian and Dutch. Together (allied), they defeated a French army led by Napoleon Bonaparte. The defeat marked the end of Napoleon's rule as Emperor of the French and brought peace to Europe, after several decades of war. The peace was to last for almost half a century.

Apsley House, on Hyde Park Corner, was the London home of the 1st Duke of Wellington from 1817 until his death in 1852. It was nicknamed 'No. 1 London', because it used to be the first house after the Knightsbridge toll gate. It still houses a superb collection of paintings, sculptures, fine porcelain and silver, military memorabilia and trophies, many of which are linked to the Battle of Waterloo.

STOP 1 – STAIRCASE

GROUND FLOOR

Time: 10 minutes

Object: N/A

Did You Know? The statue at the bottom of the stairs is of the leader of the French army, Napoleon Bonaparte, made to look like Mars the Peacemaker (a Roman god). It was sculpted by Antonio Canova but Napoleon didn't like it because it was 'too athletic', so it was packed away. It was eventually brought to England and gifted to the Duke of Wellington. This was the only place in the house big enough for the statue. The wine cellar underneath had to be strengthened to support its 3-ton weight!

Activity A: Ask pupils to stand near the statue and strike a pose like a Roman god.

Activity B: Pupils draw the little winged figure (the goddess of Victory) which Napoleon holds in his right hand.

Question: Why do you think Napoleon is holding the goddess of Victory?

Answer: This statue was finished in 1806. At this time Napoleon had conquered many countries in Europe and he wanted to be presented like a hero. But even he thought Canova's statue was too much of a bold statement.

ACTIVITY TRAIL

CHEAT SHEET

STOP 2 – STRIPED DRAWING ROOM

FIRST FLOOR

Time: 10 minutes

Objects: Wellington's HORSE, Copenhagen, and a DRUM, which pupils can find examples of in the Battle of Waterloo painting.

Did You Know? Guests could 'withdraw' to one of the drawing rooms, often after dinner. On the walls in this room are portraits of officers who fought alongside the Duke of Wellington at Waterloo. Above the fireplace is a famous portrait of Wellington by Sir Thomas Lawrence, and on the opposite wall hangs a dramatic oil painting called 'The Battle of Waterloo' painted by Sir William Allen in 1815.

Question: Does this painting show the beginning, middle or end of the battle? How do you know?

Answer: Towards the end; the fighting had been going on all day. We can tell this because it rained all day and only became dry (as can be seen in the painting) towards the end of the day. Also, Napoleon's best troops are marching into battle; he had kept them back all day thinking he wouldn't need them. The artist who painted this picture was making things look better than they were, with all the dark clouds hanging over Napoleon and all the bright sky over the Duke of Wellington, to suggest that victory is near.

Activity A: Sit pupils on the floor in front of the painting and ask them to spot these things, ticking them off in the booklet:

- The French army (navy blue uniforms)
- The allied army (red uniforms)
- Napoleon (on a white horse, front right)
- The Duke of Wellington (wearing black, on a brown horse, back left)
- Copenhagen, Wellington's HORSE
- A battle DRUM
- A canon

Activity B: Pupils choose one of the soldiers in the painting and draw a picture of him. In a thought bubble, write what he's thinking.



ACTIVITY TRAIL

CHEAT SHEET

STOP 3 – DINING ROOM

FIRST FLOOR

Time: 10 minutes

Object: Roman LAUREL WREATH, which pupils can find examples of in the silver table decorations.

Did You Know: On the walls in this room hang portraits of six kings and emperors of Europe at the time of the Battle of Waterloo. They are all standing in a way that makes them look powerful and wearing their best outfits/accessories. Each ruler is holding an object and has a scene behind him, which tells us something about who he is and what he's achieved.

Question: How many people could sit at the table?

Answer: 32

Activity A: Pupils pick one portrait hanging on the wall and find out who it is of. Describe what he's wearing, what he's holding and what scene is behind him.

Activity B: Pupils draw a self-portrait. Think about stance, outfit, props and background to show personality.



ACTIVITY TRAIL

CHEAT SHEET

STOP 4 – PICCADILLY DRAWING ROOM

FIRST FLOOR

Time: 10 minutes

Object: Wellington's DIP PEN, similar to the one he would have used to write the Waterloo dispatch.

Did You Know: The paintings in this room include the 'Chelsea Pensioners Reading the Waterloo Dispatch' by Sir David Wilkie. The people in the painting have just received a report (called a 'dispatch') from the Duke of Wellington about his victory at the Battle of Waterloo. The Duke wrote it the day after the battle. Two soldiers carried the letter by a fast horse-drawn carriage to the coast, then by boat to Kent, then horse and carriage again to London.

Activity A: Pupils sit on the floor in front of the 'Chelsea Pensioners Reading the Waterloo Dispatch' painting and spot these things:

- A man reading from a large sheet of paper
- A man who has galloped up on a horse
- An elderly soldier (Chelsea pensioner) with a wooden leg
- People waving handkerchiefs

Question: Everyone seems happy in this painting – why are they celebrating?

Answer: The Waterloo dispatch meant that Europe was at peace, the wars that had been going on for years were finally over, soldiers could come home to their families and there was no more threat of French invasion.

Activity B: Pupils work in a group to create a freeze-frame of the moment Wellington wrote his urgent report about winning the Battle of Waterloo. Use the DIP PEN as a prop in this scene.

Question: If Wellington was around today, what could he do, instead of writing a letter, to get the message seen by lots of people as quickly as possible?

Answer: He could use social media (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram) or use instant messaging to tell his friends in Britain and get them to spread the news.



ACTIVITY TRAIL

CHEAT SHEET

STOP 5 – PORTICO DRAWING ROOM

FIRST FLOOR

Time: 5 minutes

Objects: Mini PORTRAIT of Napoleon and TELESCOPE, which pupils can find real examples of on display in this room.

Did You Know: In this room there are two portraits of Napoleon and one of his wife, Josephine. Four cabinets contain some of Wellington's belongings including a telescope and some hair from Copenhagen's mane. There is also a large painting of the Waterloo Banquet taking place in the Waterloo Gallery (the next room you'll go into).

Activity A: Pupils find a PORTRAIT of Napoleon on the wall, which matches the mini version in their object bag. Now find Wellington's actual TELESCOPE in one of the cabinets.

Question: There is an unusual inkwell on display in one of the cabinets. What is it made out of?

Answer: The hoof of Wellington's horse, Copenhagen.

Activity B: Pupils gather round the large painting called 'The Waterloo Banquet at Apsley House'. They should look closely and note down some of the things they can see in the painting – they'll need to remember them in the next room.



ACTIVITY TRAIL

CHEAT SHEET

STOP 6 – WATERLOO GALLERY

FIRST FLOOR

Time: 10 minutes

Object: N/A

Did You Know: This room is called the Waterloo Gallery because it was built to display the Duke's most valuable paintings. This is the room you saw in the painting but it looks a bit different now. It's where the Duke held his annual Waterloo Banquets from 1830 to 1852, to mark his victory at the Battle of Waterloo. The officers who had fought alongside the Duke attended, wearing their uniforms. Up to 85 guests could be seated at a long table. The large painting in the last room you came through gives you an idea of what the Duke's banquets might have been like.

Activity A: Ask pupils to compare the Waterloo Gallery with the painting of it in the previous room. Which of these things from the painting can still be seen in the room itself?

- A long table with impressive decorations (no)
- A beautiful golden door frame (yes)
- Two very tall torchieres (like giant candles) (yes)
- A gold trophy shaped like a round shield (no, now in the Museum Room)
- A large painting of King Charles I on a white horse (yes)

Activity B: Pupils imagine they are a servant peeping through the door during a banquet. What would impress them most about what they saw? Finish the sentence below: The banquet was amazing because...

Question: The windows in this room have clever mirrors which can be hidden behind the walls during the day and slid across at night. Why do you think they were designed like this?

Answer: The windows provided natural light during the day and the mirrors reflected light from the chandeliers and torchieres at night, keeping the Waterloo Gallery and its valuable paintings well lit at any time of the day. The idea was taken from the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles, in France.

ACTIVITY TRAIL

CHEAT SHEET

STOP 7 – MUSEUM ROOM

GROUND FLOOR

Time: 10 minutes

Object: Anubis, an EGYPTIAN GOD, which pupils can find examples of on a plate displayed in this room.

Did You Know: Many of the items in this room were presents and trophies given to the Duke after he won the Battle of Waterloo. His victory was internationally significant and he received gifts from all over the world including Prussian and Saxon dinner services, field marshals' batons and an Egyptian dinner service. The wooden display cases in this room were designed by the 1st Duke as a way of displaying his gifts.

Activity A: Pupils tick off these things when they find them in the display cases (but please don't touch or lean on the glass:)

- The silver gilt Wellington Shield
- The Duke's swords, including ones that were given to him in India
- The Egyptian dinner service, including a centrepiece based on the design of an Egyptian temple
- Officers' hats and swords

Activity B: Pupils look closely at the Egyptian service and find examples of the EGYPTIAN GOD, Anubis. Hint: look at the borders of the plates.

Question: What do the objects in this room suggest about how people felt towards the Duke after his victory at the Battle of Waterloo?

Answer: The number and value of these objects show how grateful people were that peace had been restored. The Duke's victory at the Battle of Waterloo was seen as good news by the rulers of many countries across the world.



SITE PLAN

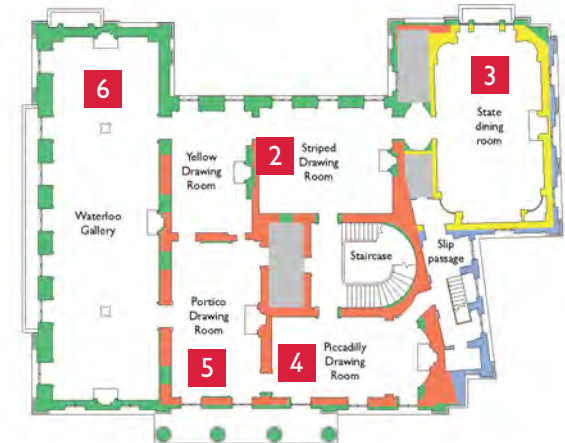
Use this plan to guide pupils around the house and keep track of the activities at each stop.

APSLEY HOUSE: PLANS AND ELEVATION



- Stop **1** – Staircase
- Stop **2** – Striped Drawing Room
- Stop **3** – Dining Room
- Stop **4** – Piccadilly Drawing Room
- Stop **5** – Portico Drawing Room
- Stop **6** – Waterloo Gallery
- Stop **7** – Museum Room

First Floor



Principal Elevation





ENGLISH HERITAGE
APSLEY HOUSE

WELL DONE! WHAT NEXT?

Back at school, you could:

- Imagine you are a soldier fighting for the Duke of Wellington at the Battle of Waterloo (1815). Write a letter home to a family member or close friend.
- Write a newspaper article describing the Battle of Waterloo, based on the painting in this trail booklet.
- Plan and film a short documentary about the Battle of Waterloo or the 1st Duke of Wellington.
- Plan the Waterloo Banquet for the Duke, to be held in the Waterloo Gallery. Design fancy invitations, a gourmet menu and an 85-person seating plan.

Step into England's story

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ENGLISH HERITAGE
EDUCATION

KS2

ACTIVITY TRAIL

DISCOVER
APSLEY HOUSE



NAME:

CLASS:

SCHOOL:

WELCOME!

The 1st Duke of Wellington defeated Napoleon Bonaparte and his French army at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. The Duke lived here at Apsley House from 1817 until he died in 1852.

Today you'll learn about:

- the Battle of Waterloo: what happened, who was involved and why it was important.
- some of the interesting things in each room and how they are linked to the Battle of Waterloo.



Painting of the 1st Duke of Wellington by Sir Thomas Lawrence.



STOP 7 – MUSEUM ROOM

Many of the items in this room were presents and trophies given to the Duke after he won the Battle of Waterloo. He received gifts from all over the world.



The wooden display cabinets in this room were designed by the 1st Duke.

A **Tick** these things off as you spot them in the display cases (but please don't touch or lean on the glass!)

- ☐ The silver gilt Wellington Shield
- ☐ The Duke's swords, including ones that were given to him in India
- ☐ The Egyptian service, including a centrepiece based on the design of an Egyptian temple
- ☐ Officers' hats and swords

OBJECT HUNT

Find the EGYPTIAN GOD in the bag. This is Anubis who has the head of a jackal (dog). The Egyptian dinner service in the display case was a gift to the 1st Duke from King Louis XVIII of France.



B **Look** closely at the Egyptian service in the display case in the centre of the room and find examples of the EGYPTIAN GOD Anubis. Hint: **look** at the borders of the plates.

What do the objects in this room tell you about how people felt towards the Duke after his victory at the Battle of Waterloo?

STOP 6 – WATERLOO GALLERY

The Waterloo Gallery was built to display the Duke's most valuable paintings. The Duke held his yearly Waterloo Banquets in this room from 1830 to 1852, to mark his victory at the Battle of Waterloo and thank the officers who fought alongside him.



There used to be a long dining table in this room which could seat up to 85 guests!

A Below is a list of things you would have seen in the painting next door.

Tick the things you can still see in the Waterloo Gallery today:

- ☐ A long table with impressive decorations
- ☐ A beautiful golden door frame
- ☐ Two very tall torchieres (like giant candles)
- ☐ A gold trophy shaped like a round shield
- ☐ A large painting of King Charles I on a white horse

B **Imagine** you are a servant peeping through the door during a banquet. Finish the sentence below:

The banquet was amazing because

.....

The windows in this room have mirrors which can be hidden behind the walls during the day and slid across at night. Why do you think they were designed like this?

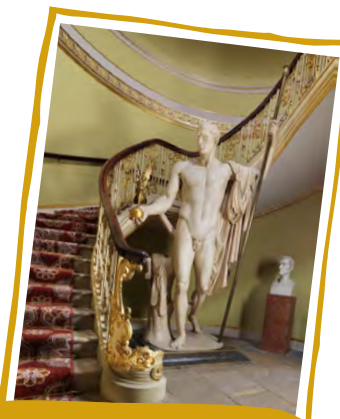
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STOP 1 – STAIRCASE

The bottom of the stairs was the only place in the house big enough for this massive statue of Napoleon. The wine cellar underneath had to be strengthened to support its 3-ton weight!

A **Stand** near the statue and **strike a pose** like a Roman god.

B **Draw** the little winged figure (the goddess of Victory) which Napoleon holds in his right hand.



This statue is of the leader of the French army, Napoleon Bonaparte, made to look like Mars the Peacemaker (a Roman god).

Why do you think Napoleon is holding the goddess of Victory?

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STOP 2 – STRIPED DRAWING ROOM

After having dinner with the Duke, guests would 'withdraw' to one of the drawing rooms. Hanging on the walls in this room are portraits of officers who fought alongside the Duke of Wellington at Waterloo.



The Striped Drawing Room at Apsley House. The Duke of Wellington's portrait is above the fireplace.

OBJECT HUNT

Find the DRUM in the bag. Drums were used at the Battle of Waterloo to signal commands to the army. The drummers were young boys. Look for drums in the battle paintings and trophies at Apsley House.



'The Battle of Waterloo', painted in 1815 by Sir William Allen. It hangs in the Striped Drawing Room.

Does this painting show the beginning, middle or end of the battle?

How do you know?

STOP 5 – PORTICO DRAWING ROOM

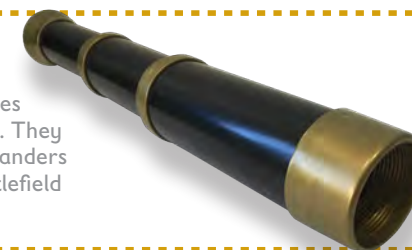
In this drawing room there are two portraits of Napoleon and one of his wife, Josephine. Four cabinets contain some of Wellington's belongings and hair from Copenhagen's mane.



The ceiling decoration and fireplace in this room haven't been changed since they were first designed.

OBJECT HUNT

Find the TELESCOPE in the bag. Telescopes were important at the Battle of Waterloo. They magnified things by 30 times so the commanders could see what was happening on the battlefield and look out for hidden enemy troops.



A **Spot** this PORTRAIT of Napoleon on the wall. Now find Wellington's actual TELESCOPE in one of the cabinets.

There is an unusual inkwell on display in this room. What is it made out of?

B **Look** closely at the large painting called 'The Waterloo Banquet at Apsley House'. **Note down** some of the things you can see in the painting.

Notes:

STOP 4 – PICCADILLY DRAWING ROOM

There is a famous painting in this room called 'Chelsea Pensioners Reading the Waterloo Dispatch'. The people in the painting have just received a report (called a 'dispatch') from the Duke of Wellington about his victory at the Battle of Waterloo.



The Piccadilly Drawing room. Sir David Wilkie's painting is hanging on the right-hand wall.

A **Tick** these things off as you spot them in the painting:

- ☐ A man reading from a large sheet of paper
- ☐ A man who has galloped up on a horse
- ☐ An elderly soldier (Chelsea pensioner) with a wooden leg
- ☐ People waving handkerchiefs

Everyone seems happy in this painting – why are they celebrating?

OBJECT HUNT

Find the DIP PEN in the bag. This style of pen was used at the time of the Battle of Waterloo. The Duke used them to write letters and official reports. Ordinary soldiers used them to write letters home.



B **Create** a freeze-frame of the moment Wellington wrote his urgent report about winning the Battle of Waterloo. Use the DIP PEN as a prop in this scene.

If Wellington was around today, what could he do, instead of writing a letter, to get the message seen by lots of people as quickly as possible?

A **Tick** these things off as you spot them in the painting:

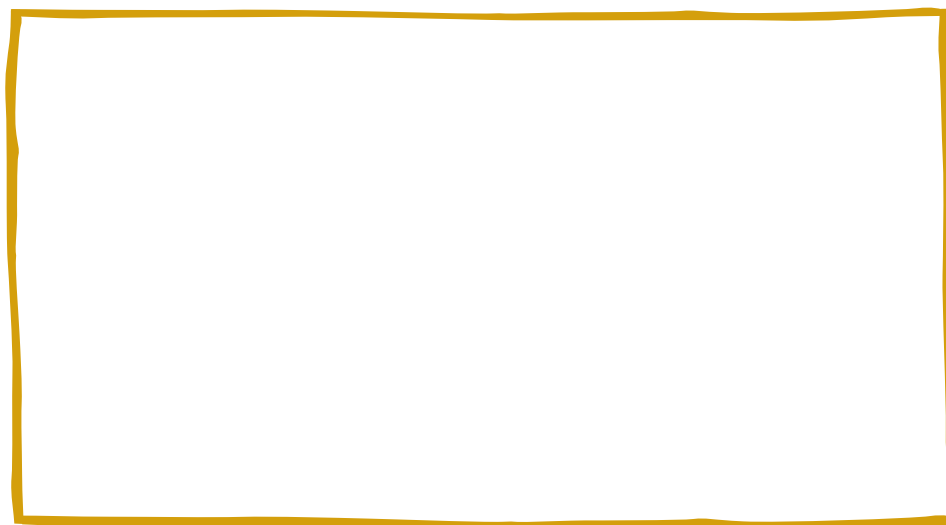
- ☐ The French army (navy blue uniforms)
- ☐ The allied army (red uniforms)
- ☐ Napoleon (on a white horse, front right)
- ☐ The Duke of Wellington (wearing black, on a brown horse, back left)
- ☐ Copenhagen, Wellington's HORSE
- ☐ A battle DRUM
- ☐ A canon

OBJECT HUNT

Find the small HORSE in the bag. The Duke of Wellington's favourite horse, Copenhagen, went into battle with him at Waterloo. Look for paintings of the Duke riding Copenhagen at Apsley House.



B **Choose** one of the soldiers in the painting and **draw** a picture of him below. Add a thought bubble coming out of his head and **write** what he's thinking.



STOP 3 – DINING ROOM

In this room there are portraits of six kings and emperors of Europe from the time of the Battle of Waterloo.



The decorations on the table are part of the silver Portuguese service presented to the Duke of Wellington in 1816.

How many people can fit round the table in the dining room?

A Pick one portrait hanging on the wall and find out:

Who is he?

What is he wearing?

What is he holding?

What scene is behind him?

OBJECT HUNT

Find the LAUREL WREATH in the bag. Roman commanders were crowned with these when they won a battle. It represents victory. Look for silver figures with laurel wreaths in the centre of the dining table—there are lots!



B Draw your own portrait. Try to say something about your personality by how you're standing, what you're wearing, what you're holding and what scene is behind you.

