

## Queen Victoria | Lesson Plan

How does using good manners show respect to others?

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Through investigating the life of Great Britain's Queen Victoria, students will understand the importance of courtesy and respect. They will recognize that in using good manners, they are representing their families and country well.

### Learning Objectives:

- Describe the life and reign of Queen Victoria, former ruler of the British Empire.
- List and describe specific behaviors that are generally considered polite and respectful.
- Explain that good manners reflect a person's family and country.

### Key Vocabulary:

- **British Empire:** All the places around the world that Britain once ruled.
- **Gentleman:** A courteous, polite, and respectful man.
- **Lady:** A courteous, polite, and respectful woman.
- **Dignity:** The state of being worthy of honor or respect.
- **Faux Pa:** A mistake in manners or conduct that usually causes embarrassment.

**Educational Standards:** CCRA.L.1, CCRA.L.2, CCRA.L.4, CCRA.W.4, CCRA.R.7, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.SL.4, CCRA.W.2

**Academic Subject Areas:** Biography, Character Development, Manners

### What You'll Need

- Video: *Queen Victoria: The Elegant Queen of the British Empire* (Watch [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Queen Victoria: The Elegant Queen of the British Empire* (Click [Here](#))
- Index cards, each describing a behavior that is considered courteous (for example: opening the door for others, chewing with mouth closed, respecting the property of others, covering mouth when coughing or sneezing, cleaning up after oneself, offering a seat to an elderly person, putting phones away at mealtime, etc.)

### Lesson Plan (45 minutes)

#### Warm-Up: (20 minutes)

1. Explain that the class will play a quick game of manners charades.
2. Invite volunteers to choose a card and act out the behavior written on it. Acting students may mime but not speak. The remaining class members will attempt to guess the courteous behavior depicted. (Alternatively, consider also listing and having children act out bad manners rather than good.)
3. Reveal that the class will watch a video about a queen who learned and practiced good manners. Provide the following background information about Queen Victoria:



- Victoria took the throne in 1837 when she was only 18 years old and had much to learn quickly.
  - As ruler of the British Empire, Queen Victoria became the symbol of Earth's mightiest empire and was required to behave in a way that showed great respect and dignity.
  - She practiced good manners every day and persisted in her determination to learn and act appropriately.
  - Queen Victoria ruled for 63 years.
4. Ask students why they think it's important to use good manners. As part of the discussion, emphasize the concept that using good manners is important because it demonstrates respect. Good conduct shows others that they are worthy of respect. The way people behave reflects their family, school, community, and country.
  5. Display the "Queen Victoria Worksheet" and distribute individual copies to students.
  6. Read over the worksheet as a class so that students know what to listen for during the video.

Watch and Complete: (15 minutes)

1. Watch the video.
2. Pause throughout the video to allow students to complete answers and notes on the worksheet. Assist as needed.

Wrap-Up: (10 minutes)

1. Allow students several minutes to complete the worksheet independently.
2. Invite volunteers to share their responses to worksheet item 9.
3. Collect the worksheet as a formative assessment or participation grade.
4. As a culminating activity, pose the following questions for classroom discussion.
  - What are some ways Queen Victoria demonstrated good manners?
  - Why is it important to display good conduct in every situation?
  - How is the use of good manners a reflection of a person's family, school, community, and country?
5. Highlight the concept that it takes effort and persistence to be a respectful, well-mannered person, and the best way to succeed is to practice every day.
6. Conclude by encouraging students to reflect on the importance of learning about Queen Victoria. She was a worthy example of a ruler who conducted herself with dignity, earning the respect of people all over the world.

**Don't have time for the full lesson? Quick Activity (15-20 minutes)**

Distribute the worksheet and allow students to complete it while they follow along with the video.