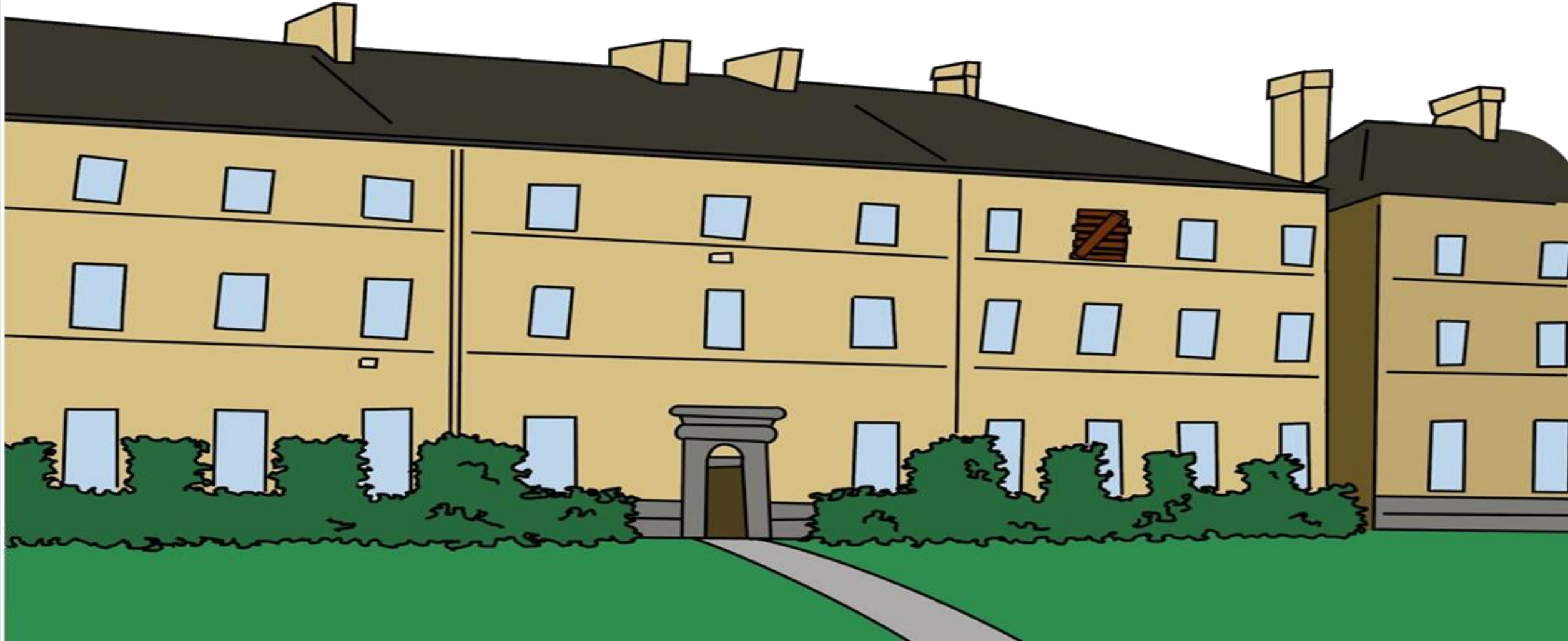


Baker Street *Elementary*

PRESENTS
"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"



Baker Street Elementary

THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON
A009 -- THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT -- FEBRUARY, 2022



WELCOME TO TOPIC # 009... TODAY WE WILL BE
LOOKING AT HOW THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS ARE
CELEBRATED DURING VICTORIAN PERIODS.



*IN 'THE ADVENTURE OF THE BLUE CARBUNCLE,' A
CHRISTMAS GOOSE LED YOU AND I ON A MERRY
CHASE FROM ONE VENDOR TO ANOTHER...*



*...TO APPREHEND THE STONE'S THIEF AND
DETERMINE HOW THE COUNTESS OF MORCAR'S BLUE
CARBUNCLE WOUND UP IN THE BIRD'S CROP IN THE
FIRST PLACE.*



THE AMERICAN PUBLIC MIGHT BE SURPRISED TO KNOW THAT WHILE A GOOSE SERVED AS THE CHRISTMAS BIRD IN THIS STORY, MANY VICTORIANS CHOSE TO FEAST ON TURKEY INSTEAD... THE AMERICAN BIRD JOINED THE CHRISTMAS TREE AND CRACKERS TO BECOME PART OF BRITISH HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS DURING THE 1800s.

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS



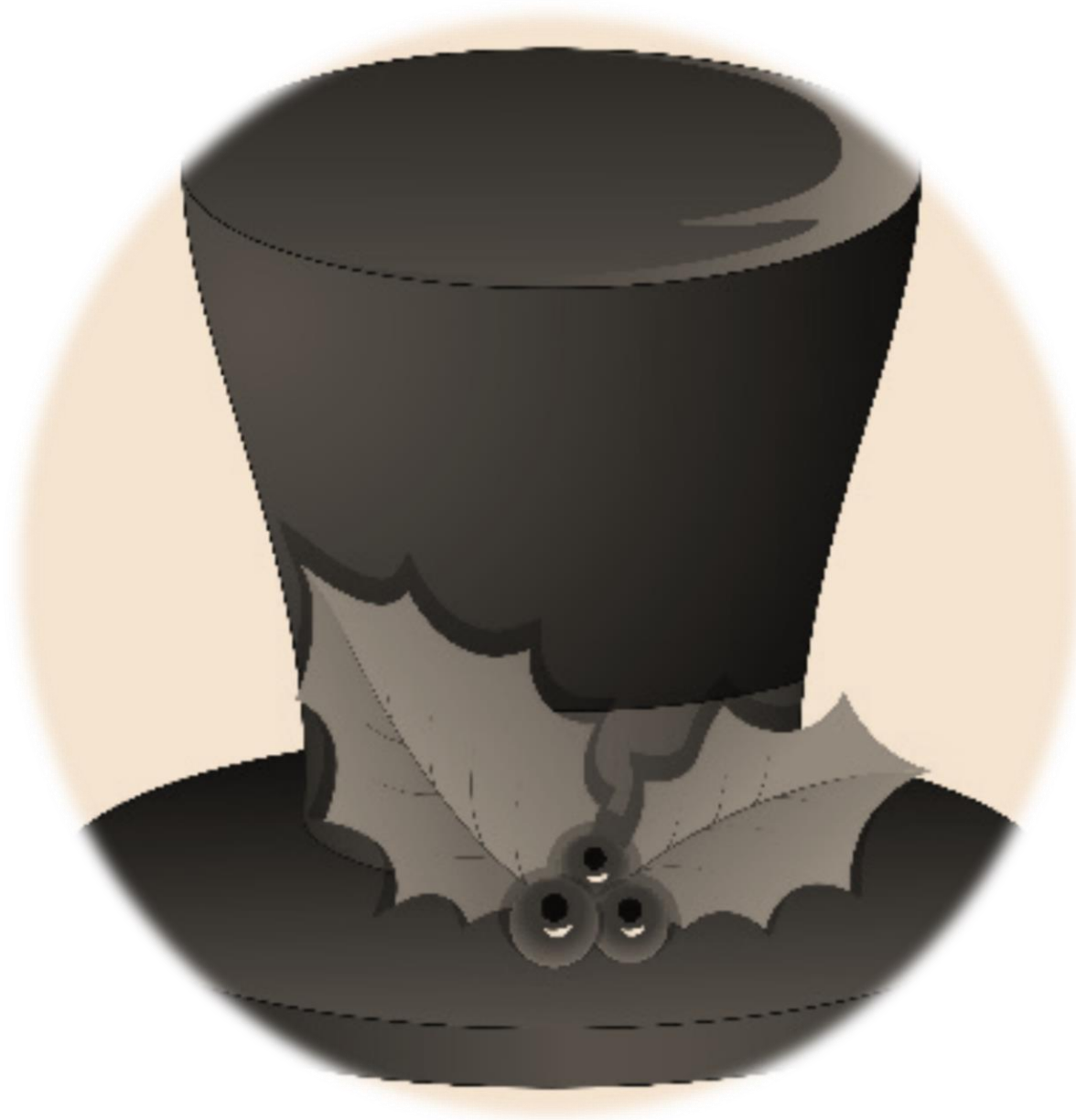
ALTHOUGH THE TURKEY WAS IMPORTED INTO THE COUNTRY BEGINNING IN THE 1500s, THE VICTORIANS INTRODUCED IT AS A REPLACEMENT FOR THE TRADITIONAL GOOSE.



AS THE TURKEY AND GOOSE BATTLED IT OUT TO MAKE IT TO THE CHRISTMAS DINNER TABLE, MANY OTHER CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS PRACTICED TODAY WERE FIRST POPULARIZED DURING THE VICTORIAN PERIOD.



*MOST PROMINENT AMONG THESE PRACTICES INCLUDE
THE CHRISTMAS TREE, CARDS, AND CRACKERS.*



THE TREE BECAME FASHIONABLE AFTER PRINCE ALBERT BROUGHT THE CUSTOM FROM GERMANY AND THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS INCLUDED AN IMAGE OF THE ROYAL FAMILY GATHERED AROUND ONE IN 1848.



WITHIN A FEW SHORT YEARS, MOST FAMILIES HAD THEIR OWN... FAMILY MEMBERS ALSO PICKED UP THE PRACTICE OF CREATING AND SENDING CARDS TO ONE ANOTHER.



BY THE 1880s, MORE THAN 11 MILLION CARDS WERE SENT EACH YEAR.



ALSO IN 1848, A BRITISH CONFECTIONER INTRODUCED THE CHRISTMAS CRACKER—A PACKAGE OF TWISTED PAPER THAT POPPED WHEN OPENED... THE ORIGINAL CANDY CONTENTS, HOWEVER, WERE REPLACED WITH PAPER HATS AND SMALL GIFTS AS THE CENTURY PASSED.





SPEAKING OF GIFTS, THE PRACTICE OF EXCHANGING PRESENTS MOVED FROM THE NEW YEAR AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CENTURY TO CHRISTMAS AS VICTORIANS MORE WIDELY OBSERVED THE HOLIDAY.



THE SMALL TRADITIONAL GIFTS OF FRUITS, NUTS, OR HOMEMADE ITEMS, HOWEVER, WERE REPLACED WITH LARGER, PURCHASED ARTICLES OVER TIME.



PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE OUTWARD TRAPPINGS OF THE SEASON WAS THE SHIFT IN THE OVERALL VIEW OF CHRISTMAS THAT OCCURRED IN THE MID-1840s, COINCIDING WITH THE PUBLICATION OF DICKENS' A CHRISTMAS CAROL.



it alone, then?"

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 1800s, THE DAY WAS NOT EVEN RECOGNIZED AS A HOLIDAY BY MANY BUSINESSES.



DICKENS' TALE IS CREDITED WITH SPEARHEADING THE CHANGE FROM THE SOMBER 18TH CENTURY PURITAN OBSERVANCE TO EARLIER PRACTICES OF MERRIMENT AND JOY DURING THE YULETIDE SEASON.





THE CONCEPT OF THE 'CHRISTMAS SPIRIT' POPULARIZED BY DICKENS IS POSSIBLY BEHIND MY OWN BELIEF THE THIEF OF THE BLUE CARBUNCLE HAD LEARNED HIS LESSON, AND IN THE SEASON OF FORGIVENESS, I SENT HIM ON HIS WAY, A FREE MAN.



**SO, IN THE WORDS OF DICKENS AND IN THE
SPIRIT OF BOTH OF US, 'GOD BLESS US EVERYONE,'
AND HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY!**



SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # 009 IN OUR SERIES...

IN TOPIC # 010, WE WILL LOOK AT PRACTICING LAW DURING THE VICTORIAN ERA.



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"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"

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