



Lesson Plan 1: The political system before 1832

Resources

Lesson one articles, the chronology and the glossary

Additional information: MPs section introduction and Constituencies section introduction

Key questions:

- Why was the system prior to 1832 considered unfair?
- What were the key events that spread the ideas for a change?
- Why did the events of Peterloo have such an impact?

Stage 1

Introduce the theme and ask pupils to read the MPs introduction and Constituencies introduction

Using the information provided answer the following questions:

What did you need to be to an MP?

How did some candidates become an MP in some Constituencies?

Stage 2

Read the section on 'Political life before 1832' (in the Constituencies introduction)

Ask the pupils to read the information on Old Sarum or Lancashire. Ask the pupils to create a grid to organise the information on each constituency so that they can compare the two e.g. how many people lived there.

Stage 3

Working alone or in small groups: Divide the student into two sections each with one biography of either Edmund Burke or Henry Hunt

Write up a summary of what influenced the man and his views. Write a one paragraph description of what each man stood for. Present that information or share it with the class. Why were their views so different?

What were the key events that influenced some of their thoughts and ideas?

Stage 4

Using all the resources for this section create a news story on the events at Peterloo. In the conclusion write up what the events of that day might affect?

Extended activities

Find out about the key works of Edmund Burke and Thomas Paine – what was their influence?

Find out the impact of the Corn Laws