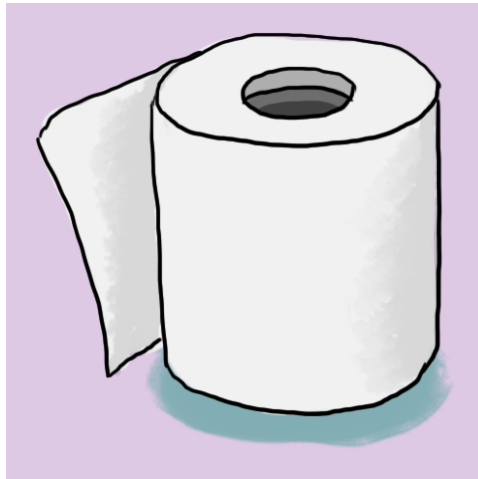


HISTORY OF THE TOILET

Have you ever wondered who the inventor of the toilet is? There weren't always toilets as we know them today. Before the invention of the loo humans used a hole in the ground, potties and chamber pots! Complete the activities in this pack to find out more.

Task 1:

Cut out the pictures below and the descriptions on the next page. See if you can match the descriptions with the pictures



WONDERFUL ON TAP

SEVERN

TRENT

The wrong end of the stick! The Romans came to the UK about 2000 years ago and built public toilets called

Latrines. There was no toilet paper, so they used communal sponge on a stick, which were kept in a bucket of water after every use.

Late 1700 – 1800

By the 17th century people living in towns and cities had a deep pit for burying waste in called a cess pit in their garden. The sewage was collected at night by Night Soil Men who took the stuff away in large carts and buried it outside the city walls.

17th Century

The best seat in the land by far was The Royal Loo.

Henry VIII had a special toilet made called a Closed –Stool.

The king also had a special person called a Groom of the Stool whose job it was to wipe Henry's bum and empty the potty inside the loo once he had been!!

1858 The Big Stink

Often a whole street would share a privy or an outside loo. These would could not cope with all the waste and would often overflow into the streets and rivers. In 1885 a heatwave caused The Big Stink. The government paid an engineer Sir Joseph Bazalgette to design and build a new sewer system for London. Over 83 miles of wooden sewer pipes were laid.

Gardez L'eau!

In the early Middle Ages people used a potty kept under the bed at night if they needed the loo. In the morning they would throw the contents of the potty out of the top window and shout "Gardez L'eau" –Look out for water to warn people below walking past.

After 1850s engineers developed ways of plumbing hot running water into houses. Wealthy people could have bathrooms and toilets that were plumbed in with a water supply. It took the poor another 100 years for the privilege. 1928 the first roll of toilet paper went on sale...and the rest is history.

HISTORICAL EMPATHY

Historical empathy means that you put yourself in the shoes of somebody else and try to understand how it would have felt to be them. Have a read of some of these historical accounts and have a think how you would have felt if you lived in this time.

After all sharing a toilet with one thousand other people couldn't have been pleasant!



The Romans were extremely fussy about cleanliness. When they came to Britain nearly 2000 years ago, they found that the Celts didn't have a way of getting rid of sewage, so they built public toilets called LATRINES. These toilets were built over deep channels and were flushed away with rainwater stored in large tanks. Latrines had wooden seats which were long enough to sit 8 people on each side, so you could have a communal poo!! Men and women would often go to the loo together but thankfully they had long robes to hide their modesty! They used a sponge on a stick to wipe their bums and then would rinse them out in the drain in front of them. A slave would pour water over soldiers' hands to clean them.

Task 2:

Write a diary account from the Romans point of view using the next page.
How would you have felt if you had to use a latrine?

ROMAN DIARY ACCOUNT

HISTORICAL EMPATHY

It wasn't just the Romans who had different toilets from the one we're used to. I've given you some more information below so find a comfy spot and have a read.



Sir Joseph Bazalgette build the new sewer system in London. This helped to reduce the numbers of people dying from killer diseases related to the dirty Thames water. Over 83 miles carried 420 million gallons of water every day. The surface of the sewers inside was smooth and sloped downwards to help the waste water flush through more quickly.

By the 17th century Sewage and rubbish was also collected at night from the cess pits by Night Soil Men who took the stuff away in large carts and buried it outside the city walls. They did it at night as there were fewer smells and flies around. The smell was so horrible that there were many scary stories about people dying mysteriously of the 'night air'. Today we know that the deadly killer was a mixture of poisonous gases.



Task 3:

Have a chat with an adult about how you would feel if you were a Soil man or Sir Joseph Bazalgette. Now try answering the questions below.

1. Imagine you're a Night Soil Man – What could you do to help stop the smells making you ill? _____

2. Imagine you were Jo, what would you been most proud of?

CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

Chronology means in order of time. There were so many different types of toilet in history. Can you help me put these events in chronological order?

Task 4:

Cut out the timeline and descriptions below and place them in chronological order.

1876 William Smith invented a jet siphon toilet for which he then got a patent, so no one could copy his idea without paying him first.	50 BC Chinese people invented toilet paper.	1 777 Samuel Prosser invented a plunger closet.
1875 Two Americans James T Henry and William Campbell were granted patents for their flushing water closet inventions.	1391 the Chinese Emperor commissioned for toilet paper sizes to be 1 metre long!	1870 Randall Mann invented a 3 pipe, siphonic closet for which he was granted a patent.
1852 Edward Jenner patented the first wash out closet that featured a shallow toilet basin and water seal.	1778 Joe Brahma patented the first toilet that featured a valve a bottom of the toilet bowl.	1596 Sir John Harrington, a British nobleman. Unfortunately, he was laughed at for his attempts and so never made another one. This is where "going to the Jon" meaning go to the loo comes from.

OBC 1300 1350 1400 1450 1500 1550 1600 1650 1700 1750 1800 1850 1900



ANSWERS

WONDERFUL ON TAP

SEVERN

TRENT

Task 1:



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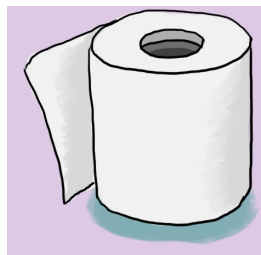
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ANSWERS

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Task 4:

