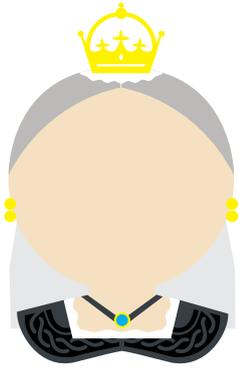


London Icons





QUEEN VICTORIA (1819-1901)

Who was she?

Queen of the United Kingdom from 1837-1901. Her 200th birthday is celebrated on London History Schools Day this year.

London links

Victoria was born and grew up at Kensington Palace, moving to Buckingham Palace when she became Queen. Her Diamond Jubilee in 1897 was celebrated with a six-mile-long procession through London. In 1899 she laid the foundation stone of the Victoria and Albert Museum in South Kensington. Today, it is the world's leading museum of art and design. London has ten statues of Victoria, including in Westminster, Lambeth and Croydon.

Get the look

Long black dress or blouse and skirt. Blue scarf or ribbon tied across body as a sash. Costume necklace, brooch, earrings and finger rings. Hair parted in the centre and tied back into a bun. Add a veil made from white net or muslin. Make a crown (see ACTIVITIES).



FREDDIE MERCURY (1946-1991)

Who was he?

A singer, songwriter and record producer, one of the founder members and lead singer of the rock band Queen. In 1990, Queen was awarded the Brit Award for Outstanding Contribution to British Music.

London links

Born Farrokh Bulsara in Stone Town, Zanzibar, Freddie Mercury moved to Feltham with his family in 1964. Today there is an English Heritage blue plaque at the house where he lived. He studied at Isleworth Polytechnic and Ealing Art College, later working for a time as a baggage handler at Heathrow airport. One of his most famous performances with Queen was at the Live Aid concert at Wembley Stadium in 1985.

Get the look

White vest. Light blue jeans and a black belt or tracksuit bottoms. White trainers or plimsolls. Make an armband out of a length of black ribbon studded with snap fasteners. Draw on a black moustache with a make-up pencil or face paint. Add a brightly coloured bomber jacket (optional).



WILLIAM MORRIS (1834-1896)

Who was he?

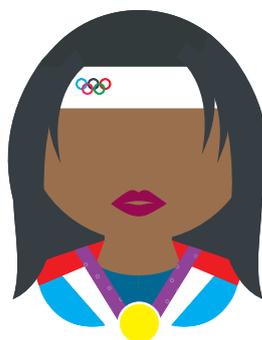
An artist, designer, craftsman and writer. His designs influenced interior decoration throughout Victorian Britain and helped inspire a decorative arts movement known as Arts and Crafts.

London links

Morris was born in Walthamstow which today is in the London Borough of Waltham Forest. His family home is now the William Morris Gallery, which houses a collection of his work and that of his friends and followers. In 1859, he moved into the Red House in Bexleyheath which he had co-designed. From 1878, his central London home was Kelmscott House in Hammersmith. Today the William Morris Society has its headquarters here.

Get the look

Long dark trousers with a white shirt and a plain waistcoat or jacket. Make a ribbon bow tie and pin onto the shirt. Use gel to create a wild hairstyle. Make a bushy beard (see ACTIVITIES).



TESSA SANDERSON CBE (born 1956)

Who is she?

A former athlete mainly celebrated as a javelin thrower. In 1984, she became the first British woman to win an Olympic gold medal in the javelin competition. In total she competed at six Olympic Games and won gold medals at three Commonwealth Games.

London links

Today, Sanderson runs the Newham Sports Academy that helped to find and train athletes to represent Britain at the London 2012 Olympics. She has also established the Tessa Sanderson Foundation and Academy, a charity based in East London. The academy helps children and young people of any nationality living in Britain find a positive route in life through sport.

Get the look

White vest top or T-shirt; pin one red and one blue ribbon around the chest to create stripes. Red, blue or white shorts or tracksuit bottoms. Trainers. Add a flannel head band and a tracksuit jacket. Make a gold medal (see ACTIVITIES).



DR HELEN SHARMAN OBE (born 1988)

Who is she?

The first British astronaut and the first woman to visit the Russian Mir space station. She has since published a children's book, 'The Space Place', and presented radio and television programmes.

London links

Sharman studied for her PhD degree at Birkbeck, University of London. After gaining her doctorate, she worked as a research and development technologist for the General Electric Company (GEC) in London. In 2015, she became Operations Manager for the Department of Chemistry at Imperial College, London.

Get the look

Disposable white coverall or baggy trousers and shirt or sweatshirt. Tuck trousers into wellington or ankle boots. Add a large pair of gloves. Draw a Union Jack onto a rectangle of fabric or paper and pin to one arm as a badge. Make a space helmet (see ACTIVITIES).



STORMZY (born 1993)

Who is he?

Stormzy is the stage name of the rapper Michael Ebenazer Kwadjo Omari Owuo Jr. In 2017, his debut album was the first grime album to reach number one on the UK Albums Chart. This year he will be the first grime artist to headline Glastonbury.

London links

Stormzy was born in Croydon and grew up in South Norwood. He attended the Harris Academy South Norwood, achieving six A* grades in his GCSEs. He was the first artist to win the newly introduced Best Grime Act at the 2014 MOBO Awards in Wembley Arena. He currently lives in West London and recently launched a New Writer's prize for young writers.

Get the look

T-shirt and tracksuit bottoms. Tracksuit top or bomber jacket. Trainers. Draw on a beard using a make-up pencil or face paints. Mix silver food dye with toothpaste or baking soda and apply a thin layer to one tooth with a small paint brush; hold mouth open until it has dried. Add a cap or beanie and make a microphone (see ACTIVITIES).



BOLLYWOOD DANCERS

Who are they?

Professional and amateur performers. Their moves come from classical Indian forms like Bharatnatyam and Kathak, and folk dances like Bhangra. The name is from the Indian film industry. It is a cross between 'Bombay' and 'Hollywood'.

London links

Bollywood dance classes and workshops are held all over London. City Academy, Clerkenwell, is home to the Bollywood Dance Company. Dancers also perform at Zee London Mela, the celebration of South Asian culture, which moved from Gunnersbury Park to Southall in 2018.

Get the look

Girls: Brightly coloured full skirts or loose-fitting trousers. Bright top or tunic. Add lots of bangles and a costume necklace fastened around the head as a headband.

Boys: Brightly coloured, loose-fitting trousers or tracksuit bottoms.

Oversized shirt or blouse. Add a colourful waistcoat (optional).

All: Tie a wide scarf or shawl around the waist as a sash.



JOSEPH GRIMALDI

(1778-1837)

Who was he?

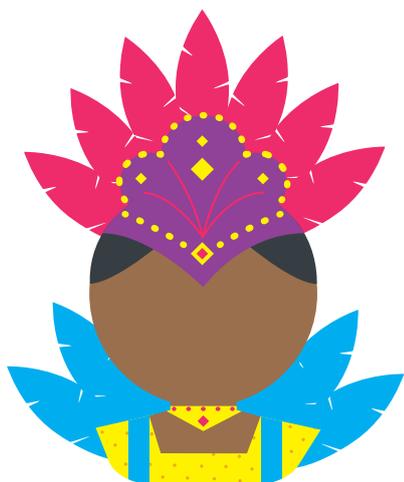
An actor, comedian and dancer who often played the character of clown in pantomimes. He expanded the role, becoming so famous that his nickname, 'Joey', and white face paint are still used by clowns today.

London links

Born into a theatrical family in London's West End, Grimaldi first appeared at Sadler's Wells Theatre aged just two. He went on to become a regular performer both there and at the Drury Lane Theatre, later moving to the Theatre Royal, Covent Garden. Today there is an English Heritage blue plaque at his home in Islington. The graveyard in Pentonville where he was buried forms part of a public park named after him.

Get the look

Baggy trousers or tracksuit bottoms tucked into long socks. Ballet pumps or slippers. Baggy shirt or blouse tucked into trousers. Make a ruff (see ACTIVITIES). Using face paints: cover face in a white base; draw on large red lips and large red triangles on each cheek; draw a V shape on the forehead to extend the hairline. Gel hair into a central tuft and two side tufts.



NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL PERFORMERS

Who are they?

Adults and children who dress up in colourful costumes and parade through the streets at the Notting Hill Carnival. They include dancers and steel band musicians.

London links

Held annually since 1966, the Notting Hill Carnival is Europe's biggest street festival. It is a spectacular celebration of Caribbean culture and community which welcomes around one million visitors every year. In 2006 it was voted one of the 'icons of England' in a public poll. The Sunday before the main parade on August Bank Holiday Monday is designated Family Day and features the Children's Parade.

Get the look

Anything goes! Suggestions: brightly coloured top or T-shirt and skirt or shorts. Trainers. Tie ribbons or coloured net around wrists and ankles. Decorate face with glitter or face paints. Add colourful accessories such as a deely bopper headband and a whistle on a bright cord. Make a carnival mask (see ACTIVITIES).



SIR CHRISTOPHER WREN (1632-1723)

Who was he?

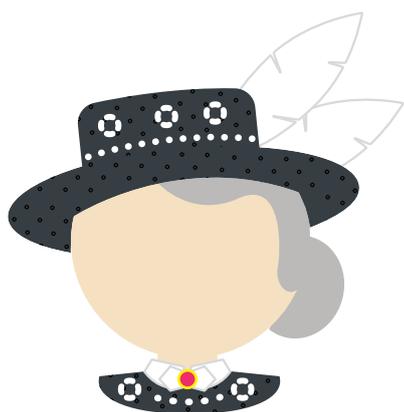
One of the most highly regarded architects in British history. He was also an astronomer, scientist and mathematician.

London links

This year marks the 350th anniversary of Wren's official appointment to design the new St Paul's Cathedral after the Great Fire of London. Today the cathedral is one of London's most iconic buildings. Wren also designed several other churches in London, the Royal Naval College in Greenwich and the south front of Hampton Court Palace.

Get the look

Baggy trousers or tracksuit bottoms tucked into long white socks. Adult's brightly coloured jacket or coat with sleeves folded back and fabric tied around the waist as a sash. Length of white fabric tied at the neck. Make shoe buckles out of card wrapped in tin foil and fasten to school shoes. Make a periwig (see ACTIVITIES).



PEARLY QUEENS AND KINGS

Who are they?

Members of a community that wears eye-catching costumes and is committed to raising money for charity. They hold annual festivals with marching bands and dancing.

London links

Henry Croft, a London road sweeper, was the first Pearly King. He covered his suit in mother-of-pearl buttons to stand out when he was collecting money for orphanages and hospitals in the late 1870s. By 1911, all London boroughs had a Pearly family, led by a King and Queen. Many of them were market or street traders, known as costermongers.

Get the look

White blouse or shirt. Black skirt or trousers. Make a 'waistcoat' out of an old black T-shirt by cutting off the sleeves and cutting out a V shape at the front. Using a snow marker or pen, draw shapes and patterns on the waistcoat. Decorate a black cap or hat with costume necklaces, broaches, badges, buttons, fabric flowers and/or feathers.

Local Icons

Students may wish to research and celebrate someone who has connections to their local area or borough.

CLAUDIA JONES
(1915-1964)

Journalist who is regarded as the pioneer of the Notting Hill Carnival.

Organised annual Caribbean Carnivals in London from 1959; buried in Highgate Cemetery.

IDRIS (IDRISSA) ELBA
(born 1972)

Actor, producer, musician, DJ and rapper; starred as Nelson Mandela in the film 'Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom.'

Born in Hackney; brought up in Hackney and East Ham; went to school in Canning Town; awarded a place at the National Youth Music Theatre.

DUA LIPA
(born 1995)

Singer and songwriter.

Born in Westminster; attended Sylvia Young Theatre School in Marble Arch and Parliament Hill School in Camden.

J. M. W. (JOSEPH MALLORD WILLIAM) TURNER
(1775-1851)

Artist; many of his paintings are displayed in the National Gallery and Tate Britain.

Born in Covent Garden; studied at the Royal Academy of Arts in Piccadilly; lived in Chelsea; buried in St Paul's Cathedral.

ALEX (ALEXANDRA) SCOTT
(born 1984)

Former footballer; played for the England women's national football team and represented Great Britain at the London 2012 Olympics.

Born and grew up in Tower Hamlets; played for the Arsenal Women's Football Club; founded The Alex Scott Academy for young female footballers at Kingston College.

DAMON ALBARN
(born 1968)

Musician; lead singer of Blur and co-founder of the virtual band Gorillaz.

Born in Whitechapel; grew up in Leytonstone; studied at Goldsmiths College.

MARIE LLOYD (MATILDA WOOD)
(1870-1922)

Music Hall singer and comedian, known as the 'Queen of the Music Hall'.

Born in Hoxton; lived in Hackney; buried at Hampstead Cemetery.

DANIEL DEFOE
(1661-1731)

Journalist and novelist; works include 'Robinson Crusoe', published in 1719.

Born in the City of London; lived in Stoke Newington; buried in Bunhill Fields cemetery.

TRACEY EMIN
(born 1963)

Artist and speaker; elected as a Royal Academician by the Royal College of Arts in 2007; raises money for charities including the NSPCC.

Born in Croydon; studied at the Royal College of Arts and Birkbeck, University of London; lives in Spitalfields.

GOK (KOWKHYN) WAN
(born 1974)

Fashion consultant, writer and television presenter.

Studied at Central School of Speech and Drama at Swiss Cottage; lives in Bloomsbury.

LILIAN BAYLIS
(1874-1937)

Manager of the Old Vic and Sadler's Wells Theatres; Lilian Baylis School in Kennington is named after her.

Born in Marylebone; went to school in Kilburn; lived in Stockwell.

BOBBY (ROBERT) MOORE
(1941-1993)

Captain of the World Cup-winning England football team.

Born in Barking; played for West Ham; a statue of him is outside Wembley Stadium.

MARIAH ISRISSI
(born 1992)

Model, public speaker and online personality; the first hijab-wearing model to star in a global fashion campaign.

Born in Kingsbury.

SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE
(1859-1930)

Writer and creator of Sherlock Holmes.

Lived in South Norwood.

FLORENCE 'STEVIE' SMITH
(1902-1971)

Poet and novelist.

Lived in Palmers Green; attended Palmers Green High School and North London Collegiate School.

JB (JONATHAN BENJAMIN) GILL
(born 1986)

**Former member of JLS;
television presenter.**

Grew up in Croydon; studied at King's College London; first ambassador for the Mayor's Fund for London.

DAME NINETTE DE VALOIS
(1898-2001)

Ballet dancer and founder of the Royal Ballet School at Sadler's Wells.

Lived in Barnes.

DEV PATEL
(born 1990)

Actor; starred in 'Slumdog Millionaire and The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel.'

Born in Harrow; attended Whitmore High School in Harrow.

JESY NELSON
(born 1991)

Member of Little Mix, 2011 winners of The X Factor.

Born and grew up in Romford; attended Jo Richardson Community School in Dagenham and Abbs Cross Academy and Arts College in Hornchurch.

ALFRED HITCHCOCK
(1899-1980)

Film director and producer, known as 'the Master of Suspense'.

Born in Leytonstone; grew up in Leytonstone and Limehouse; went to school in Battersea; attended night classes in Poplar.
