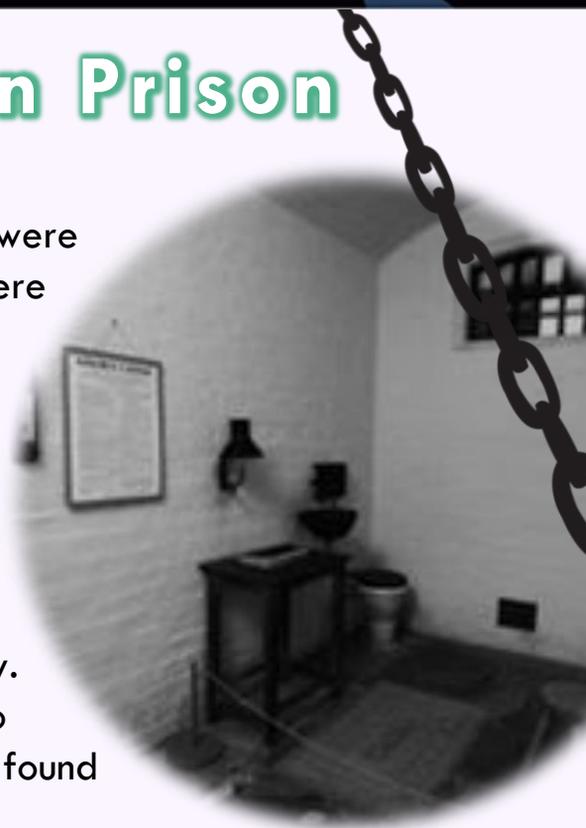


## Life in the Victorian Prison

### What did prisoners eat?

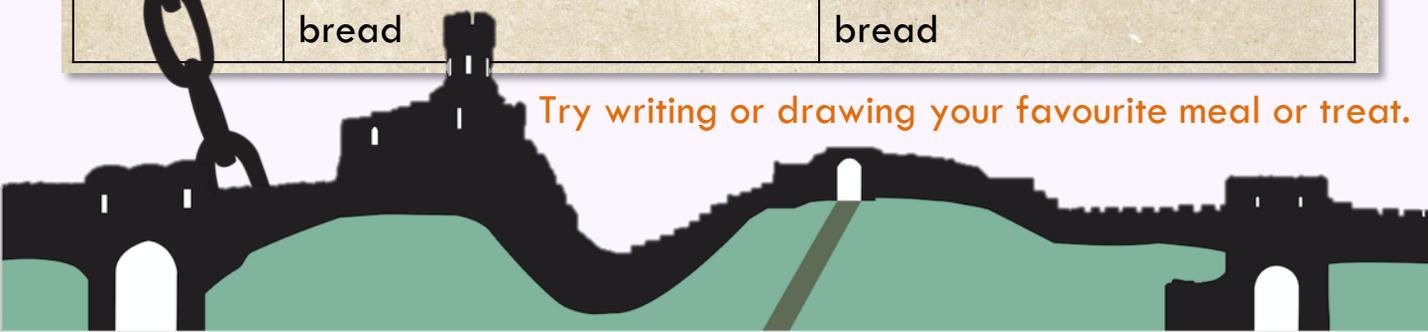
The 1866 prison rules listed what the prisoners were given to eat. If the prisoners didn't think they were getting the right amount of food, they could complain. The rules were hung up in each cell and were read out to anyone who could not read. **Why do you think that was?**

Prisoners ate different things for their midday meal depending on the day of the week. Breakfast and supper were the same every day. We know prisoners drank water. They may also have drunk tea and coffee as these have been found on prison shopping lists!



Meal	Male prisoners	Female prisoners
<b>Breakfast &amp; Supper</b>	1 pint of oatmeal gruel, 8 ounces of bread	1 pint of oatmeal gruel, 6 ounces of bread
<b>Dinner</b>	<i>Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday:</i> 3 ounces of cooked meat (without bone), half a pound of potatoes, 8 ounces of bread  <i>Monday, Wednesday, Friday:</i> 1 pint of soup, 8 ounces of bread	<i>Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday:</i> 3 ounces of cooked meat (without bone), half a pound of potatoes, 6 ounces of bread  <i>Monday, Wednesday, Friday:</i> 1 pint of soup, 6 ounces of bread

**Try writing or drawing your favourite meal or treat.**



## Education

At Lincoln Castle prison, there was a school master working here for a short time. Prisoners learnt reading, writing and **arithmetic**. These were known as the 3R's! They also studied the Bible because many Victorians believed this would lead people along the right path in life. **What is your favourite thing to learn about? Do you think prisoners would've been able to learn about your favourite subject?**



## Jobs

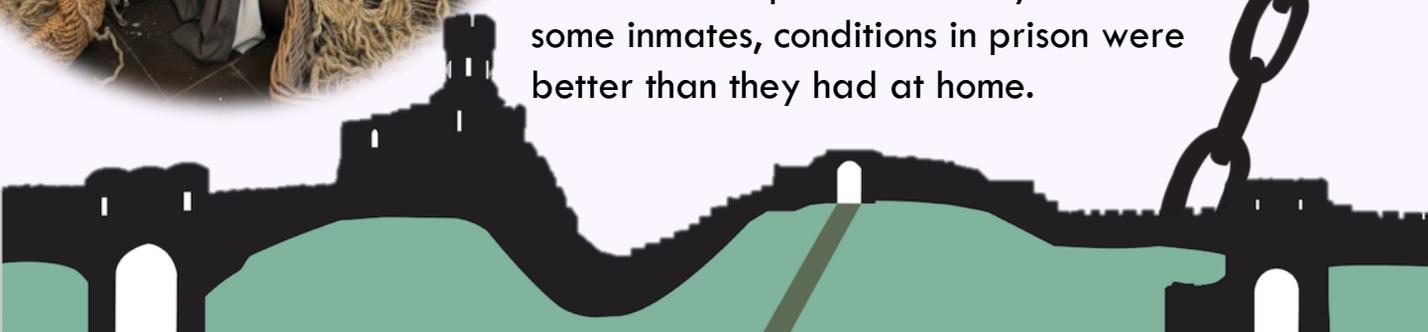
Prisoners were expected to do jobs whilst in prison to pay back for their crime. Some prisoners were sentenced to '**hard labour of the first class**'. These jobs included breaking stones and pumping water. The water went through pipes to tanks in the roof, which then travelled through to each cell.

Women and men sentenced to '**hard labour of the second class**' had to do jobs like oakum picking. This was picking rope apart using your fingers. The small fibres were then mixed with tar and could be used to help fix holes in ships. Mat making, grass cutting, knitting and working in the laundry were other jobs prisoners did here.

**Do you help out with any jobs in your home? Do you enjoy doing those jobs? How do you think the prisoners felt about doing their jobs?**



Some people thought prisoners were being spoilt because they had toilets and sinks in their cells! Lots of people in Victorian times were poor and the modern plumbing in Lincoln Castle prison was very new. For some inmates, conditions in prison were better than they had at home.



## Prison games

Governor Nicholson was in charge of the prison between 1839 and 1858. He was not a very strict Governor and sometimes let the prisoners play games. This was because there were often too many prisoners and keeping everyone separate was difficult. Sometimes there were 3 or 4 men sharing a small cell! A game they might have played was called 'Fox and Geese'.

## How to play Fox and Geese

You will need a piece of paper or a large side of a cereal box and a pencil to draw out the game.

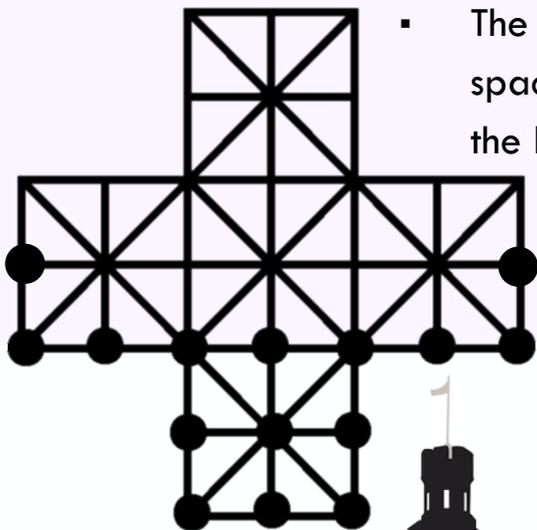
Draw out the pattern of the game using the picture below as a guide. If you have a board game at home you could borrow some counters or you could make some.

You will need 15 geese and 1 fox.



Follow the instructions below and have fun!

- One player is the fox, and the other is the Geese.
- The **Fox** is the **red** counter, the **Geese** are **brown**.
- **Geese** move first. They move forward one at a time, trying to trap the **Fox** and prevent it from moving.



- The **Fox** can jump over the **Geese** if there is a free space the other side and then remove them from the board.
- The **Fox** can change direction between jumps if doing this.
- The **Fox** wins if it removes all the **Geese** from the board. The **Geese** win if they trap the **Fox**.



## Tales from Behind Bars

Did you know that in the Victorian times children as young as six years old could be sent to Prison?

At Lincoln Castle Prison, one of the youngest inmates was an **eight** year old boy called **John Cook**. He was playing with matches in a field and set a big haystack alight. The farmer reported him to the police and he served a short sentence. He was then sent home for his mum to look after him after he fell ill while in prison.



**Priscilla Biggadyke** was accused of poisoning her husband John with arsenic. All the way through her trial, Priscilla maintained that she was innocent. The jury however, found her guilty and she was hanged in the grounds of Lincoln Castle. In fact, Priscilla was one of the first people to be executed in private following the **Capital Punishment Act 1868**.



Some time later it came to light that the Biggadykes had a lodger living with them at the time of the murder. His name was **John Proctor** and he was a rat catcher. It may interest you to know that he used to poison the rats ...with arsenic! On his death-bed, Proctor confessed to murdering John Biggadyke.

Unfortunately, it was too late to help Priscilla.

It is still a mystery if Priscilla and the lodger were both involved in the death of her husband or whether Priscilla was innocent all along.

She is buried in Lucy Tower.

