

# THE PETERLOO MASSACRE

## Lesson Two



# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To learn about what voting is
- To learn about the Peterloo Massacre



# WHY DID PEOPLE WANT A VOTE?

As a class you have to make the following decisions:

1. How long is break time?

**Teacher Notes:** Only people with long hair get to vote on this.

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FREEDOM.

# WHY DID PEOPLE WANT A VOTE?

As a class you have to make the following decisions:

1. How long is break time?
2. What is for school lunch on a Friday?

**Teacher Notes: Only people who write with their left hand get to vote on this.**

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# WHY DID PEOPLE WANT A VOTE?

As a class you have to make the following decisions:

1. How long is break time?
2. What is for school lunch on a Friday?
3. Who gets to be headteacher?

**Teacher Notes:** Only people with names starting with U,N,F,A,I,R get to vote on this.

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# WHO COULD VOTE IN 1819?

Who out of these people do you think was able to vote?



A woman from Manchester who is a labourer



A woman from Manchester who is a servant



A woman from Manchester who is rich



A man from Manchester who is a labourer



A man from Manchester who owns a shop



A man from Manchester who is rich and owns land

**Teacher Notes:** Explansion links– Slide 6–9 Blackadder ‘How England used to vote and rotten boroughs’  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EOEMRXI3sRs> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tkb9Sle4WWo>

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# ONLY 2% OF THE POPULATION COULD VOTE



A man from Manchester  
who is rich and owns land

In 1819 around 2% of the population could vote - only men who were rich and owned land.

This meant that for the vast majority of people they didn't have a say on the way laws were made.

**Teacher Notes:** Explanation links– Slide 6–9 Blackadder 'How England used to vote and rotten boroughs'  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EOEMRXI3sRs> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tkb9Sle4WWo>

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# WHY PEOPLE WANTED CHANGE?

In 1819 around only 2% of the UK population had the right to vote and Manchester did not have its own Member of Parliament.

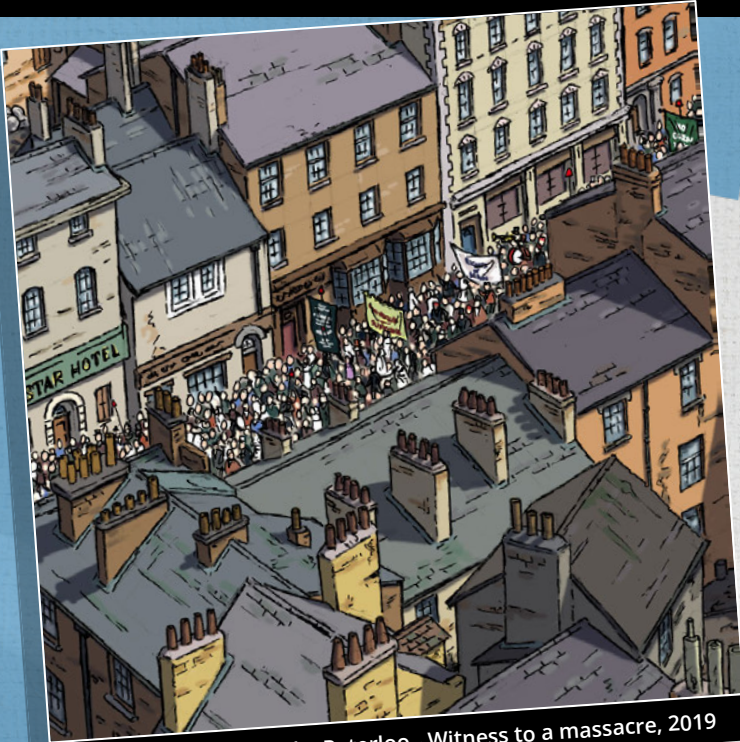
Most people were poor and rising food prices left many unable to afford basic foods like bread.



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# PEOPLE WALK TO PETERLOO



© Polyp Schlunke Poole, Peterloo - Witness to a massacre, 2019

Lots of working people from Manchester and surrounding areas were unhappy about this and wanted to protest about it.

Men, women and children walked wearing their best clothes, singing songs and carrying banners from towns and villages across and around Manchester to attend the meeting at St Peter's Field.

Some walking nearly 30 miles.

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# PEOPLE WALK TO PETERLOO

**Activity:** What would you walk 30 miles for?

Discuss in pairs and share with the group.



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# WHERE WAS PETERLOO?



© Peterloo 2019 courtesy of TripleDotMakers

Today St Peter's Field is near to where St Peter's Square is in Manchester.

The hustings would have been just outside Manchester Central

**Activity:** Use [google maps](#) to work out how long would it take you to get there from where you live.

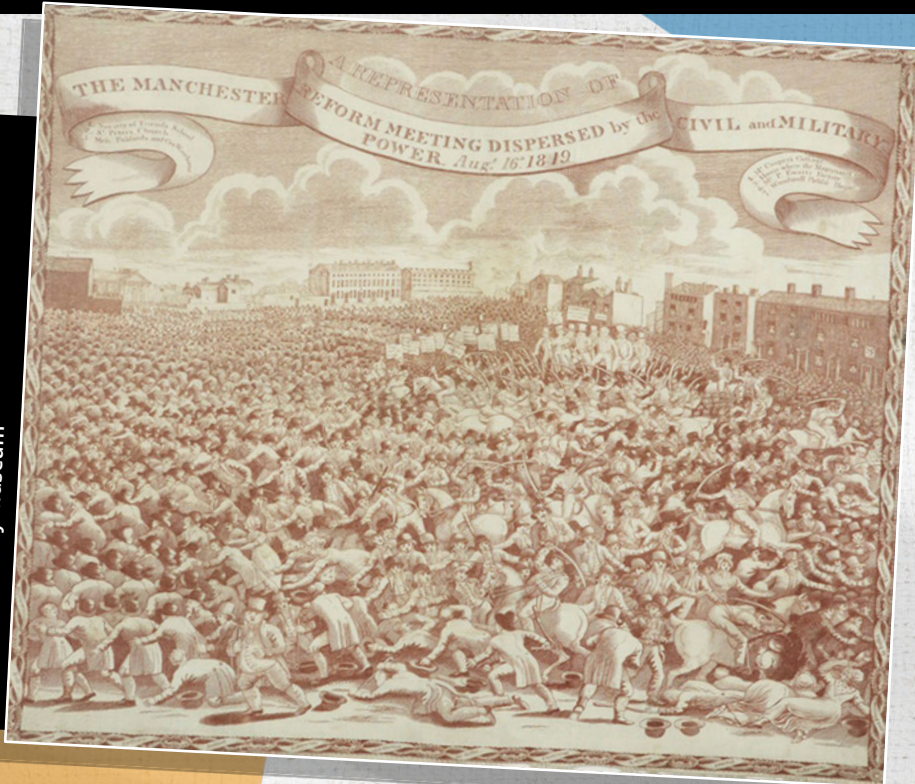
**Teacher Notes:** Click on image for GIF of St Peters Field today.

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# WHAT HAPPENED ON 16 AUGUST 1819?

© Peterloo commemorative handkerchief, around 1819  
© People's History Museum



**Teacher Notes:** Click on the image for a 6 minute introductory film that explains The Peterloo Massacre

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# PETERLOO 2019 ANIMATION



© Peterloo 2019 courtesy of TripleDotMakers

This animation was made by a group of young people from Greater Manchester who are passionate about everyone having the right to representation.

They see the 200 year anniversary of the Peterloo Massacre as a chance to shout about their own experience of democracy.

Whilst planning the animation, the group discussed the issues they face today, from votes for 16 year olds to education reform.

Teacher Notes: Click on image for hyperlink.

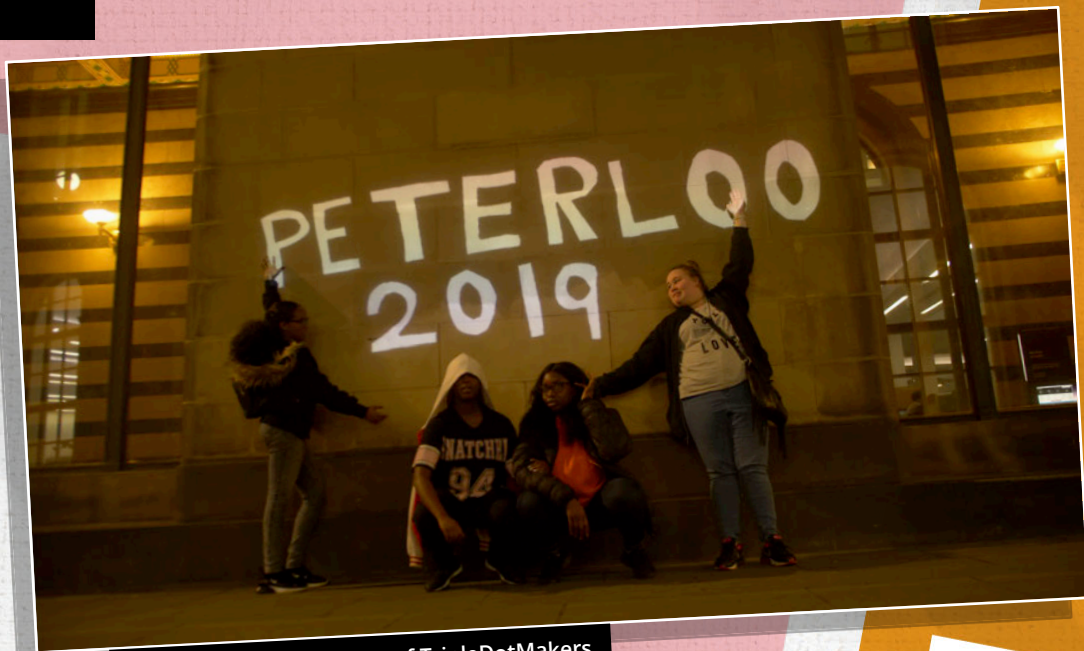
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# ANIMATION REFLECTION

Having watched the animation...

**Question:** How does that make you feel?

**Activity:** Write down your feeling on a post-it note and come up one by one and put them on the board.

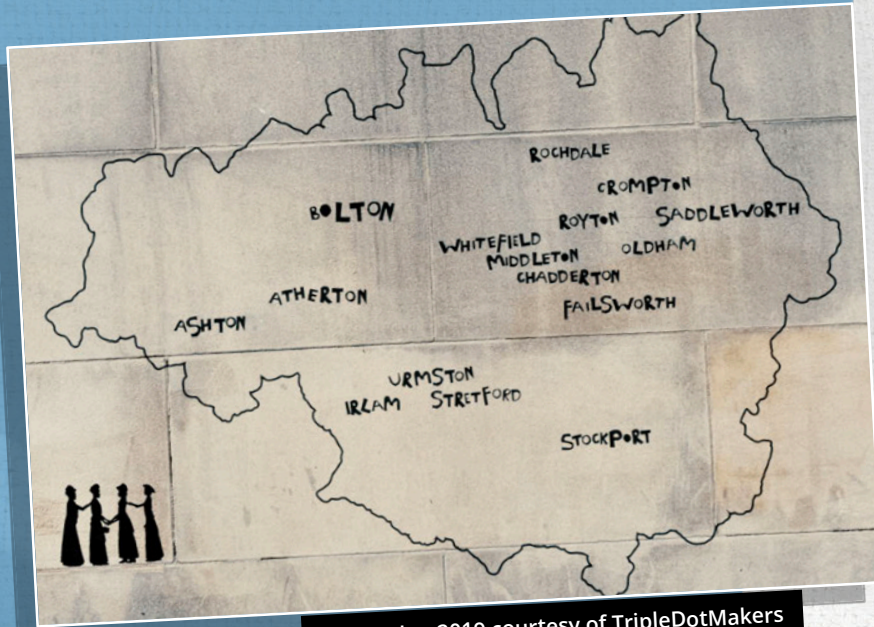


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# CREATIVE WRITING ACTIVITY



© Peterloo 2019 courtesy of TripleDotMakers

Imagine you had walked all the way to Peterloo.

Now you have to walk back home.

**Activity:** Write a short story or poem that describes the journey home to where you live on your worksheet.

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