

Charles Dickens

Unit Study



Subjects:

Reading, History, Writing, Math,
Following Directions, Geography



Teacher Instructions

Thank you for downloading our Charles Dickens Unit Study! It was created to be used with the books: *Magic Tree House: A Ghost Tale for Christmas Time* and *Who Was Charles Dickens?*. You may incorporate other books about Charles Dickens, as well. Here is what is included in the study:

Pages 3-10:	Facts about Charles Dickens Notetaking Sheets: Use with <i>Who Was...?</i> Contains answer key.
Pages 11-12:	Facts about Charles Dickens Notetaking Sheets Short Version: Use with MTH. Contains answer key.
Pages 13-16:	Timeline of Charles Dickens' Life: Students may write on timeline or cut and glue events provided.
Page 17:	Writing Prompt: Diary Entry of one of Dickens' characters.
Page 18:	Scrambled Words
Page 19:	Compare and Contrast: Two of Dickens' characters
Pages 20-21:	British Money Activity
Page 22:	Answer Key for Scrambled Words and Money Activity
Pages 23-24:	Following Directions in London with map.

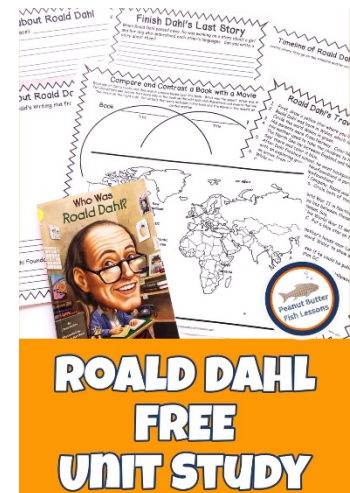
Also refer to our post: [Charles Dickens FREE Unit Study](#) for:

1. A list of some of his popular books and movies that are appropriate for children.
2. Videos to learn more about Charles Dickens
3. Links to other resources such as a Virtual Tour of the Charles Dickens Museum and A Christmas Carol FREE Unit Study.

You May Also Be Interested In:

Credits

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Facts about Charles Dickens

Birth (date and place): _____

Known For: _____

Family: _____

What was his childhood like before moving to London?

What was living in London like?

Facts about Charles Dickens

What happened to Charles' father?

What was working at a factory like for Charles?

What was Charles like once he returned to school?

What was his first adult job?

His second job:

Facts about Charles Dickens

What was his first book and how was it published?

Marriage and children:

Other books he wrote:

What did Charles think of his visit to America?

Facts about Charles Dickens

Tell about how Charles worked:

How did Charles help others?

What plays did Charles put on and what were his jobs in them? _____

Magazines he owned or edited:

Facts about Charles Dickens

His family later in life:

What did Charles think of his second visit to America?

Death and burial:

Facts about Charles Dickens

(Answer Key)

Birth (date and place): Portsmouth, England; February 7, 1812

Known For: Being a famous author.

Family: He had two parents and 6 siblings. His father was named John.

What was his childhood like before moving to London?
He went to school and had a nursemaid. He often had pains that would keep him in bed. He loved to read. Sometimes, he and his father and he took walks.

What was living in London like?

The city was crowded and the streets were dirty and noisy. The family lived in a small place and Charles had to sleep in a cupboard. His family did not have the money for him to go to school. Sometimes, they did not even have enough money for coal to heat the house. However, Charles did enjoy London and all the different people there.

What happened to Charles' father?

He was thrown into prison because he owed so much money.

What was working at a factory like for Charles?

He worked 6 days a week, 10 hours a day and did not have time for school lessons. He worked with two other boys.

Facts about Charles Dickens

(Answer Key)

What was Charles like once he returned to school?

He enjoyed it, especially games, theater, and jokes. He also started a newspaper and wrote stories.

What was his first adult job?

He worked as a clerk in a law firm.

His second job:

He worked as a newspaper reporter in the law courts.

What was his first book and how was it published?

The *Pickwick Papers* and it was published as a serial, one chapter was published each month in a magazine.

Marriage and children:

He married Catherine Hogarth in 1836. They had their first child the next year. They eventually had 9 children who lived to adulthood.

Other books he wrote:

Oliver Twist, Nicholas Nickleby, Barnaby Rudge, The Old Curiosity Shop, A Christmas Carol, David Copperfield, Bleak House, Hard Times, A Tale of Two Cities, Great Expectations, Our Mutual Friend, The Mystery of Edwin Drood (did not finish)

What did Charles think of his visit to America?

He said it was a country 'driven by a herd of rascals'. He didn't like what the newspapers said about him there and American publishers were making money off his books without paying him.

Facts about Charles Dickens

(Answer Key)

Tell about how Charles worked:

He would act out scenes in the mirror and then write them down furiously. He also liked to walk the streets of London and observe people.

How did Charles help others?

He helped found a home for homeless women.

What plays did Charles put on and what were his jobs in them? *The Frozen Deep, A Christmas Carol*, scenes from *Oliver Twist* He wrote, directed, acted, and was the stage manager.

Magazines he owned or edited:

Bentley's Miscellany (edited), *Household Words* (owned), *All the Year Around* (owned)

His family later in life:

He and his wife separated. His son, Charley, became an editor at *All the Year Around*. Many of his children moved away, including Canada, India, and Australia. They did various things with their lives including an artist, a policeman, a judge, and a farmer.

What did Charles think of his second visit to America?

He enjoyed his reading tour there, seeing old friends and reading to crowds. He was invited by President Andrew Johnson to the White House.

Death and burial:

He died in 1870 at the age of 58 from a stroke. He was buried in the Poet's Corner at Westminster Abbey.

Facts about Charles Dickens

(Short Version)

Birth (date and place): _____

Known For: _____

What was England like then?

Family: _____

What did Charles like to do besides write?

What was his childhood like?

Some stories he wrote: _____

Facts about Charles Dickens

(Short Version- Answer Key)

Birth (date and place): Portsmouth, England; February 7, 1812

Known For: Being a famous author.

What was England like then?

People did not work on farms, but rather in factories. Many people became wealthy, but many people were poor. Horses and carriages were used to travel.

Family: Charles was married and had a son named after him. He and his wife went on to have several more children.

What did Charles like to do besides write?

He liked to walk the streets of London.

What was his childhood like?

He worked in a shoe polish factory when he was 12. He worked 6 long days a week and barely made enough money to survive. He lived alone while his parents lived in a debtors' prison.

Some stories he wrote: Oliver Twist, A Christmas Carol, David Copperfield, Bleak House, Great Expectations

Events for the Timeline

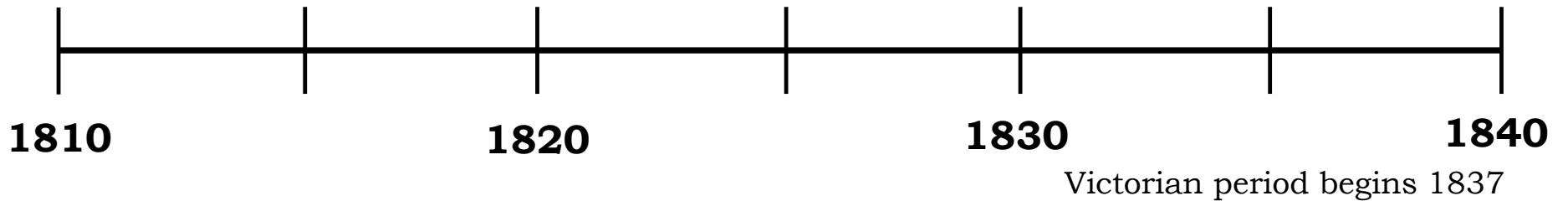
1812 Charles Dickens is born.	Charles Dickens is born.
1822 Dickens family moves to London.	Dickens family moves to London.
1824 Charles starts working in a factory.	Charles starts working in a factory.
1824 John Dickens is put in debtor's prison.	John Dickens is put in debtor's prison.
1825 Charles returns to school.	Charles returns to school.
1827 Charles starts work as a law clerk.	Charles starts work as a law clerk.
1829 Charles becomes a newspaper reporter.	Charles becomes a newspaper reporter.
1833 First story published in <i>Monthly Magazine</i> .	First story published in <i>Monthly Magazine</i> .
1836 <i>Pickwick Papers</i> begins being published.	<i>Pickwick Papers</i> begins being published.
1836 He marries Catherine Hogarth.	He marries Catherine Hogarth.
1837 First child, Charley, is born.	First child, Charley, is born.
1842 Visits United States.	Visits United States.
1843 <i>A Christmas Carol</i> published.	<i>A Christmas Carol</i> published.
1846 Home for homeless women founded.	Home for homeless women founded.
1849 <i>David Copperfield</i> begins being published.	<i>David Copperfield</i> begins being published.
1850 First issue of <i>Household Words</i> is published.	First issue of <i>Household Words</i> is published.
1852 Last child, Edward, is born.	Last child, Edward, is born.
1854 <i>Hard Times</i> is published.	<i>Hard Times</i> is published.
1855 Buys Gad's Hill.	Buys Gad's Hill.
1856 Wrote <i>The Frozen Deep</i> play with Wilkie Collins.	Wrote <i>The Frozen Deep</i> play with Wilkie Collins.

Events for the Timeline

1857 Charles separates from his wife.	Charles separates from his wife.
1859 <i>A Tale of Two Cities</i> is published.	<i>A Tale of Two Cities</i> is published.
1865 Survives train crash.	Survives train crash.
1867 Visits United States again.	Visits United States again.
1870 Charles Dickens dies.	Charles Dickens dies.

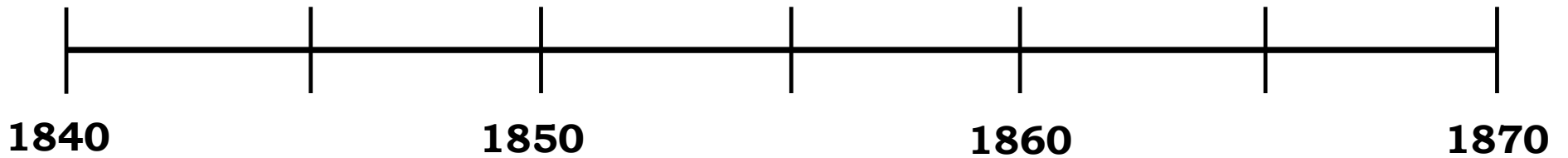
Timeline of Charles Dickens' Life

Cut out and glue the events where they go on the timeline and/or write in the events you want to include.



Timeline of Charles Dicken's Life

Cut out and glue the events where they go on the timeline and/or write in the events you want to include.



Victorian period continues until 1901

Word Scramble

Unscramble the words below and learn a little more about living in London in the 1800s. (This activity goes best with the Magic Tree House book.)

RCNVOIAIT _ _ _ _ _

Queen Victoria was the queen of England from 1837 to 1901. This period in England was the called the Victorian period.

AYPKHDRE _ _ _ _ _

This is the largest Royal Park in London and you can visit it today.

GRAECRAI _ _ _ _ _

During the 1800s, people traveled around London by walking or by horse and carriage.

MGBIHUKACN _ _ _ _ _

This is the palace where Queen Victoria lived. Queen Elizabeth II now lives there.

LDIISATNUR LVOONREIUT

The invention of machines led to people working in factories instead of farms. Many people became very wealthy, but the people who worked in the factories faced a harsh life and did not have much money.

YICHMEN ESPEW _ _ _ _ _

People who cleaned the soot out of chimneys made by the coal fires that were burned.

ROEVIL ISWTT _ _ _ _ _

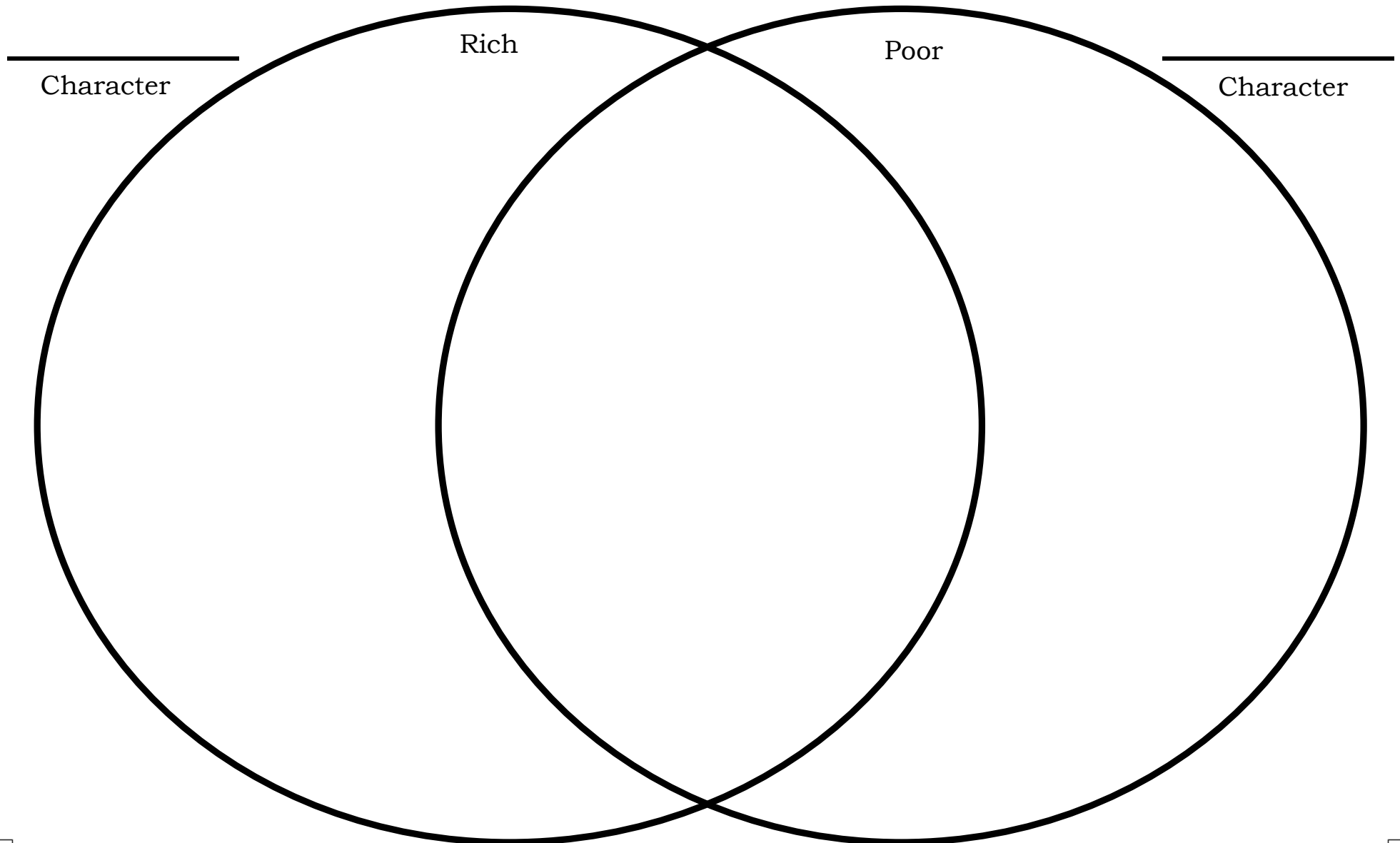
A popular book by Charles Dickens.

NNI _ _ _

A place like a restaurant where people went to eat.

Compare and Contrast Rich and Poor Characters

Dickens' books often dealt with the difference in lifestyles of rich and poor people. Pick a character who was rich and a character who was poor from one of his books and compare the two below. Write similarities between the two characters in the area where the circles overlap and characteristics unique to each character in the corresponding circle outside of the overlapping area.



British Money

In *A Ghost Tale for Christmas Time*, Jack and Annie have to use British money to pay for things and are confused by it. Complete this activity so you will not be confused if you ever need to use British money to pay for things!

Listed below are the different denominations of British money and how they roughly compare to US money. The exchange rate changes daily, though, so you may want to look up what it is today.

After you review the different denominations, solve the problems.

The pound sterling or **pound (£)** is roughly equal to a US dollar. There is a 50 £ note, a 20 £ note, a 10 £ note and a 5 £ note. There is a 2 £ coin and a 1 £ coin.

A **pence** is roughly equal to a US penny and $1 \text{ £} = 100 \text{ pence}$. There is a 50 pence coin, a 20 pence coin, a 10 pence coin, a 5 pence coin, a 2 pence coin, and a 1 pence coin.

Story Problems:

1. A taxi ride in London costs you 18£. How can you pay the exact amount with the least amount of bills and coins?

2. A book at a local bookstore costs 11.55 £. How can you pay the exact amount with the least amount of bills and coins?

British Money (cont.)

Story Problems (cont.):

3. If you give the clerk at the bookstore 15 £ to pay for the same book (11.55 £). What bills and/or coins would he give you as his change?
4. You eat fish and chips at a restaurant and the bill comes to 15.40 £. How can you pay the exact amount with the least amount of bills and coins?
5. If you pay for the fish and chips with a 20 £ bill, what bills and/or coins do you receive as change?
6. You have a cup of tea later in the day for 2.55 £. How can you pay the exact amount with the least amount of bills and coins?
7. If you pay for the tea with a 5 £ bill, what coins do you receive as change?

Word Scramble Answer Key

1. Victorian
2. Hyde Park
3. Carriage
4. Buckingham
5. Industrial Revolution
6. Chimney Sweep
7. Oliver Twist
8. Inn

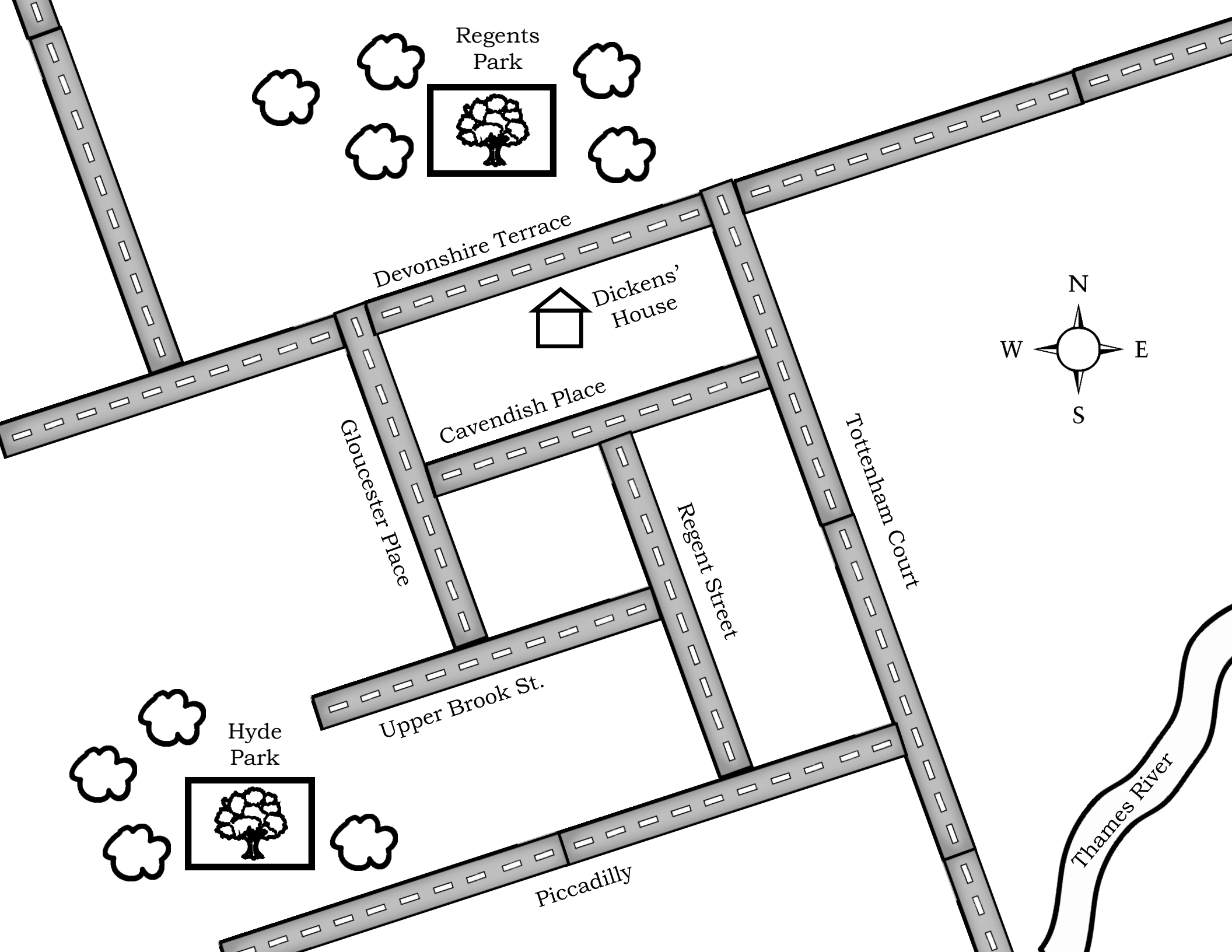
British Money Answer Key

1. A 10 £ note, a 5 £ note, a 2 £ coin, and a 1 £ coin.
2. A 10 £ note, a 1 £ coin, a 50 pence coin, and a 5 pence coin.
3. A 2 £ coin, a 1 £ coin, two 20 pence coins, and a 5 pence coin.
4. A 10 £ note, a 5 £ note, and two 20 pence coins.
5. Two 2 £ coins and three 20 pence coins OR two 2 £ coins, a 50 pence coin and a 10 pence coin.
6. A 2 £ coin, a 50 pence coin and a 5 pence coin.
7. A 2 £ coin, two 20 pence coins and a 5 pence coin.

Following Directions in London

You arrive at Hyde Park and need to find your way to Charles Dickens' house.

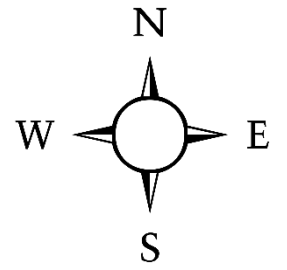
1. Draw a blue line from Hyde Park along Upper Brook St. until you reach Gloucester Place.
2. Take a left and continue your blue line along Gloucester Place until you reach Devonshire Terrace.
3. Take a right turn with your blue line onto Devonshire Terrace and continue the line until you reach Dickens' house.
4. Color Dickens' house red with a black roof.
5. Charles Dickens liked to take long walks through London. Draw a green line from his house, down Devonshire Terrace until you reach Tottenham Court.
6. Take a right with your green line and continue it all the way down Tottenham Court until you reach Piccadilly.
7. During the 1800s, factories were built along the Thames River. Draw a black building between Tottenham Court and the river.
8. Now, draw a brown building to the east of the Thames River.
9. Start your green line from the river, back up Tottenham Court until it reaches Piccadilly.
10. Take a left on Piccadilly and continue your green line until you reach Regent St.
11. Take a right and continue your green line up Regent Street until you reach Cavendish Place.
12. Cross Cavendish Place and cut through the grass with your line until it reaches Dickens' house.



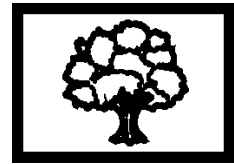
Regent's
Park



Dickens'
House



Hyde
Park



Piccadilly

Thames River

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Thank you, Randi Smith