

Victorian Hackney

School activity sheet

In Victorian schools, children did not have exercise books and folders to write things in like we have in schools today. They had to learn rhymes or chants to help them remember things.

Many people still use rhymes and chants today to help them remember things. You might know some of the ones here.

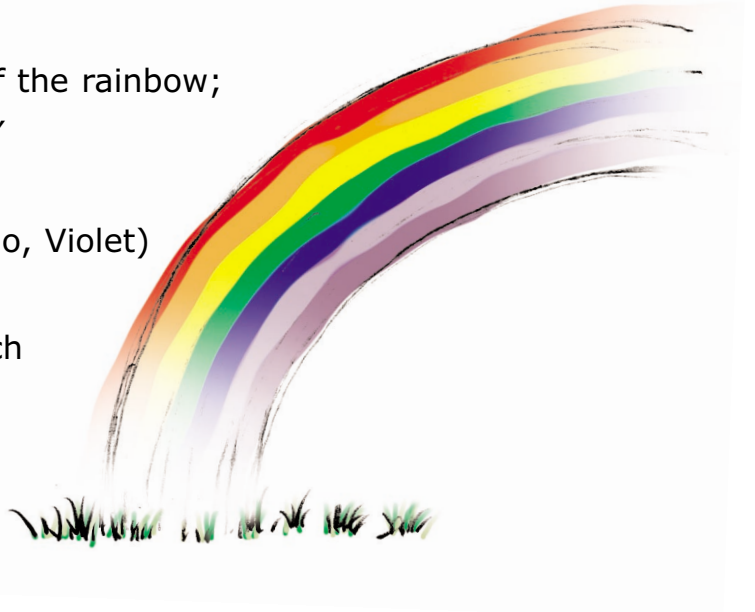
This chant is to remember the colours of the rainbow;

"Richard Of York Gained Battles In Vain"

(Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet)

This is to remember how many days each month of the year has:

*"30 days hath September,
April June and November,
All the rest have 31,
Excepting February lone,
Which has 28 days clear,
But 29 in each leap year."*



And these are reminders of dates in history:

*"Remember remember,
The 5th of November,
Gunpowder, treason and plot.*

*"In fourteen hundred and ninety two
Christopher Columbus sailed the ocean blue."*

Activity

Can you make up a rhyme or a chant to help you remember something you always forget? You could do a rhyme to help you remember the birthdays of your friends or family, or what days you have certain subjects at school.

If you can, ask a grandparent or older relative if they can remember any rhymes from when they were at school.