



## Living in the Past: An Army of Servants

- Show a picture of a Georgian manor house and have your class compile a list of jobs necessary to maintain it. Either write a list or mime actions for the rest of the class to guess. Here are some examples:
  - For her Ladyship: seamstresses, lady’s maids and hairdressers
  - For his Lordship: wig makers, menservants and secretaries
  - For the children: wet nurses, governesses and tutors
  - For the kitchens: head cooks, sauce makers, fire tenders, scullery maids
  - For the dining room: butlers and servers
  - For the salon: entertainers, musicians and singers
  - For the bedrooms: housekeepers, housemaids and fire-lighters
  - For outside: groundskeepers, gardeners for fresh flowers and vegetables
  - For stables: horse trainers, stable hands and footmen
  - For country estates: gamekeepers, estate agents, candle makers, cask builders...The list goes on!



## Body Language and Courtly Games from the Past

An 18th-century visitor to your class would find our body movements, voice modulation and facial expressions very still and inexpressive. People then used extravagant gestures and highly declamative voices. Explore with you students typical positions or gestures of today:

- Show these expressions without words: “I don’t know!” “Sure, sure!” “Great play!” Find other examples of body language used today.
- Divide your class into small groups and have them choose a well-known story, poem, picture book or even television show. Have each group design a “tableau” and hold it while the rest of the class guesses the scene. Making tableaux (from the French word for “pictures”) used to be a popular parlor game. Young men and women would think of a literary work or famous painting. Then they would costume and pose themselves to resemble the work, and the guests would guess the artistic source or reference.

## Exploring the Music

Traveling around Europe as a young man, Handel eagerly absorbed musical ideas from every country. This section explores the Sarabande and the Hornpipe. Both relate to the “pomp” rather than the “piety” of the Baroque era.

### Two Sarabandes

One teacher described this effective way of opening a concert: Students paraded into the auditorium in pairs, holding candles and dancing the sarabande as described below. They then sung Thomas’s heart-breaking aria, “Give Me My Freedom” from *Rinaldo*.