

January 22nd

Memory verse:

and the rain descended,
and the floods came,
and the winds blew,
and beat upon that house;
and it fell not:
for it was **founded upon a rock** Matthew 7:25

The repetition in this verse makes it easy to learn. Small children can learn the words in bold and understand that Jesus is the rock, “founded” means “built” and the words describe the Christian's life.

An emperor and two other monarchs today but first something good (?) to eat...

A game to play¹

Sir Ralph Verney, (1613 – 1696) who had fought for King Charles I in the Civil War later became an MP and government servant under King Charles II. On **22nd January** 1685 he wrote to his sixteen year old son Edmund, who had just arrived at Trinity College, Oxford. He told him about a box and a trunk which had been sent off to Oxford for him. As well as clothing and two guineas in money, the box contained:

- 1 lb of brown sugar candy
- ¼ lb white sugar candy
- 1 lb of pickled raisins (good for a cough)
- 4 nutmegs
- 18 Seville Oranges [very bitter oranges]
- 6 Malaga Lemons²
- 3 lbs brown sugar
- 1 lb of white powdered sugar made up in quarters.



I'm not sure what a modern day student would do with such a tuck box unless he were about to devote his time to making marmalade! Apparently pickled raisins are good with cold meat, cheese, or chicken salad (I've never tried them myself) but I can find no mention of them as a cough remedy. If you were setting off as a student what would you like to find in your tuck box?

Younger children might like to play a game of “tuck box”. Children take it in turn to suggest an item to go in the box. The first item must begin with A the next with B and so on. Each child must repeat the whole list (so far) every time it is his turn before adding his own item. The goal is to reach the end of the alphabet without forgetting anything.

¹ Adapted from Owen, Evan, *What Happened Today?* Book 1 available on the *Mothers' Companion* flashdrive <https://motherscompanion.weebly.com/>

² A guinea was a coin containing ¼ oz (just over 7 grams) of gold. Originally worth 20 shillings i.e. £1 it increased in value with the price of gold.

History from India and some dictionary work

I have highlighted some tricky words in this story. Use your dictionary to find out exactly what they mean.



On 22nd January 1666 Shah Jahan (“Emperor of the World”) I (1592-1666), fifth Mogul Emperor of India, died in prison in the Agra Fort in India. He had been imprisoned there by his son, Dara Shikoh (1615-1659), when he recovered from what had been assumed was his final illness. Dara Shikoh assumed the throne when his father became ill and killed his brothers to ensure his succession. When his father did eventually die he was buried alongside his favourite wife in the great mausoleum he had built for her. This is the most famous

building in India today, the Taj Mahal, and attracts thousands of tourists. You probably recognise it from the picture on the left.

Muslims had invaded India in the eighth and eleventh centuries. They set up several Islamic kingdoms in northern India but the south remained a mixture of Hindu states. Even in the north the invaders were a small minority and their effect overall on India culture was small. In 1500 India was invaded by Babur (1483-1530) a descendant of the Turkish conqueror Timur or Tamerlane (1346-1405). Using artillery and firearms he defeated the Indians and established the Mogul Empire. His grandson Akbar who ruled 1556-1605 was a polymath who was fascinated by religion and philosophy. He invented his own religion which, although Islamic, was eclectic in approach including what Akbar imagined was the best from a number of other different religions. Akbar wanted to unite India by converting others to this idea but had little success.

The Mogul Empire began to decline in the mid seventeenth century. Unlike Akbar, Shah Jahan, who built the Taj Mahal, was a persecutor of Hindus and Christians and after him the decline of the Mogul empire accelerated.

Something to find out

What can you discover about religion in India today? What is the predominant religion of India? What is the situation for Christians in India today and how is it changing?

Two more monarchs³



On 22nd January 1371 King Robert III of Scotland was crowned. You can read all about his rather sad reign in the extract from H E Marshall's *Scotland's Story* which is included in today's optional resources.

On 22nd January 1901 Queen Victoria died. She had reigned longer than any of her predecessors.

We will be looking at her reign in more detail in the lesson for 20th June. Victoria had very firm ideas on the rôle of women. She took care to present herself to her subjects as a maternal figure, helping to root



³ Image of coin showing Robert III By Classical Numismatic Group, Inc. <http://www.cngcoins.com>, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=4046102>

women's sphere of influence firmly in the home. She described the movement for women's suffrage as “mad, wicked folly.” In Victoria's day many wise women agreed with her ideas on this subject and were grateful to her. Read the inscription below the statue pictured on the previous page. Victoria is criticised today by those who have an unbiblical view of the relationship between men and women and who do not distinguish between equity and equality. In her own day her ideas were considered perfectly normal.

Something to think about for older children

What is the difference between equity and equality? There is a great deal of muddle about these concepts today because people try to define them without reference to God's Word. Equity is justice. It is an absolute standard and a measure which God uses and will use when he comes in judgement. “... for He cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall He judge the world, and the people with equity.” Psalm 98:9. We use God's law to evaluate what is equitable. This is not the same as equality which carries the idea of the same treatment for everybody – which may not be fair, equitable or suited to their needs. For instance, treating women as equal to men in the sense of their having the same needs, aspirations and strengths is not equitable. Women have the same value and dignity in God's sight as men but they are not equal in the sense of “the same”: they are different.