

HY24620 Exploring Nineteenth-Century Exhibitions

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This module will develop students' critical awareness of historical sources and methods of research through examination of a range of sources relating to nineteenth-century exhibitions. It looks at how popular shows and exhibitions have operated as ways of classifying, domesticating and making sense of the exotic and unusual. It looks at the relationship between the historical development of the exhibition and the rise of consumer culture through the nineteenth century. Through panoramas, magic lantern shows, galleries of practical science and industrial exhibitions audiences learned how to see the alien as part of their own culture, how to understand scientific and technological progress and how to participate in commodity culture.

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