

The Royal Victoria Hospital



Name: _____

Primary: _____

The Royal Victoria Hospital

History of the Royal Victoria Hospital Belfast

The hospital dates from 1797 when the Belfast Fever Hospital was opened in a house in Factory Row (now known as Berry Street). At this time, one nurse cared for six patients. In 1799 the hospital moved to West Street, off Smithfield Square. Eleven years later, in 1810, Lord Donegall donated a site in Frederick Street for the hospital. In 1815 the foundation stone of a new hospital of 100 beds was laid and two years later it was opened. It became known as the Belfast General Hospital in 1848.

This hospital was extended with the addition of two new wings in 1865 and received its first Royal Charter in 1875 when it became the Belfast Royal Hospital.

In 1899 the second Royal Charter was granted and the Royal Belfast Hospital was renamed the "Royal Victoria Hospital". At the beginning of the 20th century, the hospital was no longer able to meet the needs of the rapidly expanding City of Belfast.

The City granted the present site and the Royal Victoria Hospital on the Grosvenor Road was opened by King Edward VII in 1903.

The Belfast District Lunatic Asylum had stood on this site since 1829 and the new hospital, set in what a contemporary writer described as "an area of wooded parkland", cost £120,000 and provided 300 beds.

Expansion and rebuilding has taken place continuously since 1903 and this has included an extension known as the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children (RBHSC). The hospital treats approximately half a million patients a year.

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Answer the following questions:

1. Where was the Fever Hospital in 1797?

2. Who gave the site in Frederick Street for building a hospital?

3. How many patients were there when the Fever Hospital opened in 1797?

4. How long ago was the hospital founded?

5. In which year did the hospital become known as the Belfast General Hospital?

6. Who opened the Royal Victoria Hospital in 1903?

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7. How much did the new hospital cost to build?

8. What was the area like before the building work took place?



Royal Victoria Hospital – opened 1903

Victoria was Queen from 1837 to 1901 and the Royal Victoria Hospital was named after her.



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9. Can you think of anywhere else in Belfast which was named after Queen Victoria?

10. Her husband was Prince Albert. There is a famous landmark in Belfast named after him. What is it?



11. Where would you find a statue of Queen Victoria in Belfast?

12. According to the article, approximately how many patients are treated in the RBHSC per year?

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Design a Get Well card (front)



The Royal Victoria Hospital

Create a verse/message for the *Get Well* card to cheer someone up!



Use ICT to make a copy your *Get Well* card

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Imagine the card is being sent to you. Address the envelope to yourself.

