

Further Reading Task: What was the significance of the Peterloo Massacre?

Recap: On 16th August 1819 a group of protesters gathered at St Peter's Field in Manchester. They were led by Henry Hunt, a man who wished to protest against a lack of political freedoms in the city. People wanted to vote, and they were becoming angry that food was so expensive.



Soldiers who had been sent to keep order at the protest opened fire on the protesters. 11 were killed, and hundreds injured.

The massacre happened just 4 years after the famous British victory at the Battle of Waterloo. In mockery of this victory, the massacre at St Peter's Field was called "Peterloo".

TASK 1: In your book draw a small picture of a rich landowner and a poor factory labourer. Leave space around the outside of each. From your two people draw speech bubbles and write in these the things these people would have said from the table below.

Careful – some are not as easy as they seem!

"The Peterloo massacre shows that rich people can control us only by using force!"	"Those protesters got everything they deserved."	"Days like this make Britain weak. It must be avoided in future!"
"We can learn from the mistakes of Peterloo."	"Peterloo was a sad day in which innocent protesters were killed."	"The Peterloo massacre is something worth remembering."

TASK 2: Answer these questions in your book using full sentences:

1. Why would people who wanted change have remembered the Peterloo massacre?
2. Why would rich people have remembered the Peterloo massacre?
3. To whom do you think was the Peterloo massacre most important: the rich people or reformers?