

STANDEN



BRIGHT LIGHTS AND FASHIONABLE FITTINGS: EARLY ELECTRICITY AT STANDEN

Can you imagine what life was like before we used electricity in our homes? Standen was one of the first houses in the country to have electricity built in right from the start—something we take for granted today. Follow the trail to learn about how the Beale family used electricity in their home...

There are lots of different types of light fittings around the house, but not all were originally electric lights. Some were electrified—made electrical—later. Which rooms are these 4 lights in? Which one do you think was electrified?

1.



2.



3.



4.



Why do you think some people electrified older light fittings?

Start in the Hall...

Look at these glass light shades. Did you know some Victorian ladies were worried that electric light could be bad for their skin? It was much brighter than the soft, flickering candle or oil light they were used to.



The Drawing Room

The lights here in the Drawing Room were made to look like flowers. The Beales at Standen were very fashionable. In the space below, have a go at designing your own light fitting.



The Billiard Room

Using the new electric lights the Beale children could play billiards in here even after it got dark.



The Dining Room

Why do you think people still used candles when they had electric lights?



Electricity wasn't always very reliable in the early days!

The Business Room

Mr Beale worked in this room, and he used this call button on the wall to summon a servant to help him. It was connected to the electric call board near the Kitchen.



Answers: 1. Hall, 2. & 3. Billiard Room, 4. Dining Room.
Number 3 was electrified later, it was originally an oil lamp.

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