

LEGACY STATEMENTS

PAIRS: Present the facts on strips. Sort them into 'immediately after' and 'over time'. Follow with a discussion on whether the protesters achieved reform – in their lifetime? – for future generations?

- Peterloo was the first public meeting at which journalists from important, distant newspapers were present, and within a day or so of the event, accounts were published in London, Leeds and Liverpool. The London and national papers shared the horror felt in the Manchester region, and the feeling of indignation throughout the country became intense.
- A few days later, the Prince Regent sent a message recording his 'great satisfaction at their [magistrates'] prompt, decisive and efficient measures for the preservation of the public tranquillity'.
- The authorities gave a vote of thanks to the military: 'The yeomanry had merited the entire approbation of all the respectable inhabitants of this large and populous town.'
- Three hundred other citizens complained: 'We feel it our bounden duty to protest and to express our utter disapprobation of the unexpected and unnecessary violence by which the assembly was dispersed.'
- The immediate effect of Peterloo was a crackdown on reform. The government instructed the police and courts to go after the journalists, presses and publication of the *Manchester Observer*.
- Henry Hunt was sentenced to two and a half years in prison for unlawful and seditious assembling. No evidence had been allowed about the way in which the meeting had been attacked.
- The outrage felt across the country eventually led to the Great Reform Act in 1832, introducing wide-ranging changes to the electoral system of the United Kingdom. Working men, however, would have to wait many decades for the vote, and women would not get the vote until 1918.
- Most historians believe that it led to the rise of the Chartist Movement, from which grew the trade unions, which resulted in the establishment of the *Manchester Guardian* and which, most significantly of all, paved the way towards ordinary people being given the vote.