

Year 4 History Assessment: Life in Victorian Britain

Learning objective: To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Victorian society, including key inventions, the experiences of children, and the impact of the Industrial Revolution.

Read each question carefully. Write your answers clearly in the spaces provided. Ensure you use historical vocabulary where appropriate.

Queen Victoria reigned from 1837 until 1901. During this period, Britain changed rapidly due to the Industrial Revolution. Many people moved from the countryside into growing towns to work in factories. While new inventions like the steam engine changed how people travelled and worked, life was often very difficult for the poor, who sometimes ended up in workhouses if they could not afford to live independently.

Word bank: Industrial Revolution · Workhouse · Victorian · Steam engine · Apprentice · Social reform · Queen Victoria · Factory

1. Name the monarch who ruled Britain during this era and state the years her reign began and ended. (2 marks)

2. Explain one way the Industrial Revolution changed where people lived in Britain. (2 marks)

3. What was a 'workhouse' and why did Victorian people fear being sent to one? (3 marks)

4. List two inventions from the Victorian era that changed daily life for people. (2 marks)

5. Describe the life of a typical child worker in a Victorian factory. Think about their working conditions and what they might have missed out on. (4 marks)

6. If you were a wealthy Victorian, you might spend £5 on a new coat, whereas a poor family might earn only a few shillings a week. How does this difference show us that society was unequal during this time? (3 marks)

7. Imagine you are Ellie the elephant, who loves history. Write a diary entry as a child living in 1850. Describe a day in your life, including your job, the sights you see, and how you feel about the changing world around you. (9 marks)

Draw: Draw a Victorian steam train arriving at a station. Include one detail to show the difference between a wealthy passenger and a worker.



Extension challenge: Total: /25