

Victorian Life with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To understand the differences between life for rich and poor children during the Victorian era.

Ellie the Elephant has been researching the Victorian period for her history club. She has found a list of items and experiences from the 1800s. Sort each item into the correct column: 'Life for Wealthy Children' or 'Life for Working-Class Children'.

Word bank: Attending a private boarding school · Working in a coal mine · Playing with expensive clockwork toys · Cleaning chimneys · Having a governess · Selling matches on the street · Wearing hand-me-down clothes · Living in a large house with servants

1. 1. 'Attending a private boarding school' - Which group does this belong to? (1 mark)

2. 2. 'Working in a coal mine' - Which group does this belong to? (1 mark)

3. 3. 'Playing with expensive clockwork toys' - Which group does this belong to? (1 mark)

4. 4. 'Cleaning chimneys' - Which group does this belong to? (1 mark)

5. 5. 'Having a governess' - Which group does this belong to? (1 mark)

6. 6. 'Selling matches on the street' - Which group does this belong to? (1 mark)

7. 7. Imagine you are a child in the Victorian era. Write one sentence explaining how your daily routine would change if you had to earn money for your family instead of going to school. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a split-screen picture: on one side, draw a wealthy Victorian child in a nursery with toys, and on the other side, draw a working-class child helping with chores or work in the Victorian city.



Extension challenge: Ellie found out that a loaf of bread cost about 5d (old pence) in the 1800s. Research or guess: why was it so difficult for poor families to afford basic food items like bread compared to wealthy families?