

A Day in the Life of a Victorian Child

Learning objective: To write a descriptive account of daily life in the Victorian era using historical knowledge.

Use this writing frame to help you describe what life was like for a child during the Victorian period. Think about what Ellie the elephant taught us about Victorian homes, schools, and jobs. Use the word bank to help your sentences flow.

The morning mist clung to the cobblestones as the city began to wake, signalling the start of another long day for a Victorian child.

Word bank: Furthermore · In contrast · Consequently · During the Victorian era · Strictly · Hard-working · In addition · However · On the other hand

1. Home Life: Describe the home environment of a Victorian child. Start with: Life at home for a child in the 1800s was often... (2 marks)

2. Schooling: Explain what lessons and the classroom atmosphere were like. Start with: Unlike our classrooms today, Victorian schools were... (2 marks)

3. Daily Chores or Work: Describe the jobs children might have had to do. Start with: Many children were expected to help their families by... (2 marks)

4. Free Time: What games or pastimes did they enjoy? Start with: Despite the hard work, children still managed to find moments of fun by... (2 marks)

5. Reflection: How does your life today compare to theirs? Start with: Reflecting on this, I feel lucky because... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are writing a letter to a friend living in 1880. Describe one item you use every day, such as a lightbulb or a television, and explain how a Victorian child would react to it.