

Victorian Life: Discovering the Past with Ellie

Learning objective: To identify key features of Victorian society, including the impact of the Industrial Revolution and the daily experiences of children.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of the Victorian era to provide detailed answers. Remember to look at the word bank for help with historical vocabulary.

Ellie the elephant has been using her incredible memory to look back at the time of Queen Victoria. From the busy factories of the Industrial Revolution to the strict rules of the schoolroom, life was very different for children living in Britain between 1837 and 1901. Think about the jobs they did, the clothes they wore, and the homes they lived in as you complete these challenges.

Word bank: Industrial Revolution · Workhouse · Victorian · Chimney sweep · Textile mill · Queen Victoria · Social class · Apprenticeship

1. The Industrial Revolution changed how people worked and lived in Britain. Explain one way that life in a city changed during this time. (2 marks)

2. Ellie remembers that children from different social classes had very different lives. Describe two differences between the schooling of a wealthy Victorian child and a poorer Victorian child. (3 marks)

3. Many Victorian children worked in dangerous jobs such as being a chimney sweep or working in a textile mill. Why do you think factory owners preferred to hire children rather than adults? (2 marks)

4. A Victorian family might have had a weekly budget of 15 shillings. If a loaf of bread cost 2 pence and a liter of milk cost 1 penny, calculate the total cost for 3 loaves of bread and 2 litres of milk in pence. (2 marks)

5. Why was the invention of the steam engine so important to the growth of the British Empire during the Victorian era? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene showing a Victorian street. Include at least three historical features, such as gas lamps, a horse-drawn carriage, or children dressed in traditional Victorian clothing.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a reporter living in the year 1890. Write a short diary entry (50-70 words) describing a day in your life, mentioning the chores you had to do and the food you ate for your evening meal.