

Victorian Life: An Illustrated Study

Learning objective: To understand the contrast between different social classes in Victorian Britain through annotated illustrations.

Use the drawing prompt below to create a split-scene illustration. Once your drawing is complete, use the word bank to label the key features of your Victorian scene. Ensure your labels are neatly placed with lines pointing to the correct items.

Draw: Create a split-screen drawing on an A4 sheet. On the left side, draw a bustling, soot-filled Victorian industrial street featuring a tall brick chimney, a cobbled road, and a horse-drawn carriage. On the right side, draw the interior of a cosy Victorian parlour with a fireplace, a heavy velvet curtain, and a gas lamp. Use a detailed, observational style. Include at least one figure in each scene to show the contrast in Victorian social status.



Label words: Gas lamp · Cobbled street · Chimney sweep · Top hat · Parlour · Industrial chimney · Carriage · Workhouse

Steps:

1. Identify two distinct differences between the clothing worn by the wealthy and the clothing worn by the working class in your drawing. Explain why these differences existed.
2. Label your drawing to show where you have illustrated the 'Industrial' side of Victorian life versus the

'Domestic' side.

3. Look at your drawing of the Victorian street. What might happen to the air quality in this city if ten more factories were built nearby? Justify your prediction.
4. Compare and contrast the life of a child living in a wealthy Victorian townhouse with a child working as a chimney sweep. What are the key differences in their daily routine?
5. Ellie the elephant is studying history! If she were to visit your Victorian scene, which invention from the era do you think would surprise her the most? Explain your choice.
6. Justify why many Victorian streets were lit by gas lamps rather than electric bulbs during the mid-Victorian period.