

Victorian Life: Industry and Innovation

Learning objective: To analyse the impact of the Victorian era on modern life and understand the social shifts caused by the Industrial Revolution.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of Victorian history to provide detailed explanations. Ellie the elephant, our history expert, reminds you to think about how life changed for people living in the 19th century.

The Victorian era was a time of immense change. New machines were invented, cities grew rapidly as people moved from the countryside for work, and children's lives were transformed by new laws and schools. From the busy factories to the quiet classrooms, the world was becoming a very different place.

Word bank: Industrial Revolution · Workhouse · Urbanisation · Steam engine · Textile mill · Social reform · Innovation · Victorian

1. The Industrial Revolution led to many people moving from rural villages to crowded cities. Explain why this shift in population happened and what challenges families might have faced in these new urban environments. (3 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the life of a child working in a textile mill with the life of a child attending a school after the 1880 Education Act. Justify your answer using examples of their daily routines. (4 marks)

3. Identify one major invention from the Victorian era. Explain how this invention changed the way people travelled or communicated across the country. (2 marks)

4. What might happen if the government had not introduced social reforms to limit working hours for children? Discuss the potential long-term impact on their health and education. (3 marks)

5. A Victorian family has saved £2 to spend on household goods. In your opinion, why was money so difficult to earn for the working class during this period? Consider the cost of food and rent. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene showing a busy Victorian street. Include a contrast between the old-fashioned horse-drawn carriages and the new, smoky steam trains in the distance.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a Victorian inventor. Write a short journal entry (100 words) describing your new invention. Explain what problem it solves and why it is important for the people of your time.