

Victorian Life with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To understand the social conditions and major changes in society during the Victorian era.

Use your knowledge of the Victorian period to answer the following questions. Think about how life changed for families, children, and workers during Queen Victoria's reign.

Ellie the Elephant is visiting the local history museum to learn about the Victorian era. She is fascinated by how much life changed between 1837 and 1901. From the rise of factories and steam engines to the changing lives of children who went from working in dangerous jobs to attending school, there is so much to explore. Use your history skills to answer the questions below.

Word bank: Industrial Revolution · Workhouse · Victorian · Chimney sweep · Tenement · Education Act · Queen Victoria

1. Identify two major changes that happened in Britain because of the Industrial Revolution. (2 marks)

2. Explain why the 1870 Education Act was a significant turning point for children living in Victorian Britain. (2 marks)

3. If a Victorian family earned £1 per week, but rent for their small room cost 15p, what percentage of their weekly income was spent on rent? Show your calculation. (3 marks)

4. Describe one daily job a child might have been expected to do if they were forced to work in a Victorian factory or as a chimney sweep. (2 marks)

5. Why did many people move from the countryside to cities like London or Manchester during the Victorian period? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene comparing a Victorian classroom to a modern-day classroom. Label two differences you can see.



Extension challenge: Research a Victorian invention (such as the steam train or the telegraph). Write a short paragraph explaining how this invention changed the way people travelled or communicated.