

Ellie's Victorian Life Explorer: A Historical Diary Entry

Learning objective: To understand and describe daily life during the Victorian era by adopting a historical perspective.

Imagine you are a child living in the year 1885. Use this template to write a diary entry about your day. Think about your chores, your schooling, the clothes you wear, and the games you play. Use the word bank to help you include historical vocabulary.

Word bank: Industrial Revolution · Workhouse · Coal · Chimney sweep · Scullery maid · Slate · Apprentice · Steam engine · Victorian · Factory

1. The Setting: Describe where you live and the sights and sounds you experience on your street. (3 marks)

2. Daily Responsibilities: Explain what your daily chores or job involves and why these were necessary for your family. (3 marks)

3. School Days: Compare your school experience to a modern classroom. What materials do you use to write your lessons? (3 marks)

4. Justify your answer: Why do you think many children in the Victorian era had to work instead of attending school full-time? (4 marks)

5. Compare and contrast: How does the technology you see every day differ from the inventions of the Victorian era? (4 marks)

6. What might happen if a child from 2024 were suddenly transported back to 1885? Describe the biggest challenge they would face. (5 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a Victorian inventor. Write a short proposal for a new machine that could make life easier in the 1880s. Explain how it works and what Victorian problem it solves.