Victorian Life: Sorting the Past

Learning objective: To understand the social and technological changes during the Victorian era by categorising key aspects of daily life.

Ellie the elephant has been visiting the archives and found a collection of historical facts! Sort the following items into two categories: 'Life for the Wealthy' or 'Life for the Working Class'. Write your chosen category next to each item.

Word bank: Domestic servants · Private tutors · Coal mines · Grand country houses · Overcrowded tenements · Silk dresses · Chimney sweeps

1. Domestic servants (1 mark)

2. Private tutors (1 mark)

3. Coal mines (1 mark)

4. Grand country houses (1 mark)

5. Overcrowded tenements (1 mark)

6. Silk dresses (1 mark)

7. Chimney sweeps (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a Victorian street scene showing the difference between a wealthy family in fine clothes and a child worker. Think about the clothes, the buildings, and the jobs they might be doing.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a reporter in 1880. Write a short diary entry (50-70 words) describing the sights and sounds of a busy Victorian market. Would items like a loaf of bread cost more or less than £1 back then?