

Year 4 History Assessment: Life in Victorian Britain

Learning objective: To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Victorian society, technological advancements, and the experiences of children during the 19th century.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to provide detailed, accurate answers. Ensure your writing is clear and uses appropriate historical vocabulary.

Queen Victoria reigned from 1837 to 1901. During this period, Britain underwent vast changes. The Industrial Revolution meant that many people moved from the countryside into growing towns and cities to work in factories and mines. While the wealthy enjoyed new inventions like the steam train, many poorer children worked in dangerous conditions for very little money.

Word bank: Industrial Revolution · Workhouse · Victorian · Urbanisation · Social reform · Engine · Apprentice · Class system

1. Identify two significant changes that occurred in Britain during the Victorian era. (2 marks)

2. Explain why many families moved from the countryside to cities during this period. Use the term 'Industrial Revolution' in your answer. (2 marks)

3. Max the monkey is looking at a Victorian maths puzzle. If a child worked a 12-hour shift in a factory and earned £0.05 per day, calculate how much they would earn in a 6-day working week. Show your working out. (2 marks)

4. Compare the daily life of a wealthy Victorian child with a child from a poor family. Provide two differences. (4 marks)

5. Justify why the introduction of the Factory Acts was a turning point for Victorian children. (4 marks)

6. What might happen if the steam engine had never been invented during the Victorian period? Consider the impact on transport and trade. (3 marks)

7. Extended Writing: Ellie the elephant is writing a diary entry from the perspective of a child working in a Victorian coal mine. Describe the daily routine, the dangers faced, and the child's hopes for the future. Use at least three key historical terms from the word bank. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene showing a Victorian invention, such as a steam train or a gas lamp, alongside a feature of daily life from that time.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Greater Depth Challenge: Research and compare the Victorian education system to the modern UK school system. Create a table justifying which aspects of Victorian schooling you believe were effective and which were overly harsh.