

Ellie's Victorian Adventure

Learning objective: To develop an understanding of daily life and social inequality during the Victorian era.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Use evidence from the passage to support your answers.

Ellie the elephant loves exploring the archives of the past. During the Victorian era, Britain changed rapidly due to the Industrial Revolution. Great steam engines powered massive factories, and railways connected the country like a giant spider's web. However, life was starkly different depending on who you were. Wealthy families lived in grand townhouses with servants, wearing fine silks and enjoying elaborate dinners. Meanwhile, many children from poorer families faced a much harder existence. They often lived in cramped tenements and were sent to work in dusty factories or as chimney sweeps to help their families survive. While the Victorians invented incredible things like the postage stamp and the underground railway, they also built workhouses for those who could not afford food or shelter. Ellie notes that it was a time of immense progress, but also a time of great struggle for the common child. Education was not free for everyone until late in the century, meaning many children spent their days working rather than sitting in a classroom like you do today.

Word bank: Industrial Revolution · Victorian · Chimney sweep · Workhouse · Tenement · Privilege

1. Identify two jobs mentioned in the text that Victorian children might have been forced to do. (2 marks)

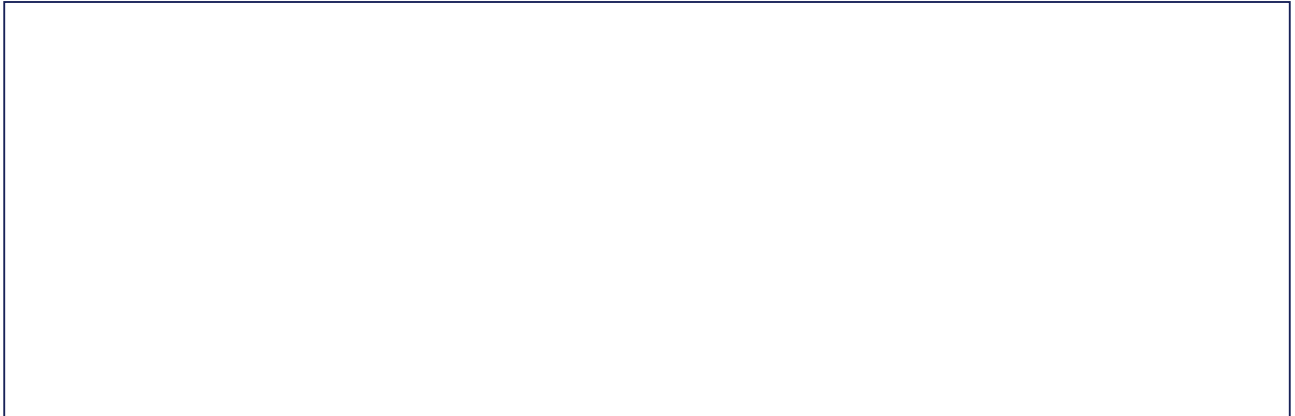
2. According to the passage, what major change in the 19th century helped to connect the country? (1 mark)

3. Why does the author suggest that life was 'starkly different' for Victorian children? (2 marks)

4. What can you infer about the importance of education in the early Victorian period compared to today? (2 marks)

5. Do you think the Victorian era was a 'successful' time in history? Justify your answer using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a split-screen illustration showing a wealthy Victorian child in a grand room on one side, and a child working in a factory on the other side.



Extension challenge: Explain why the Industrial Revolution might have caused people to move from the countryside into crowded cities. Compare and contrast the life of a Victorian child with your own life: what is one thing you are grateful for that they did not have? Justify your choice.