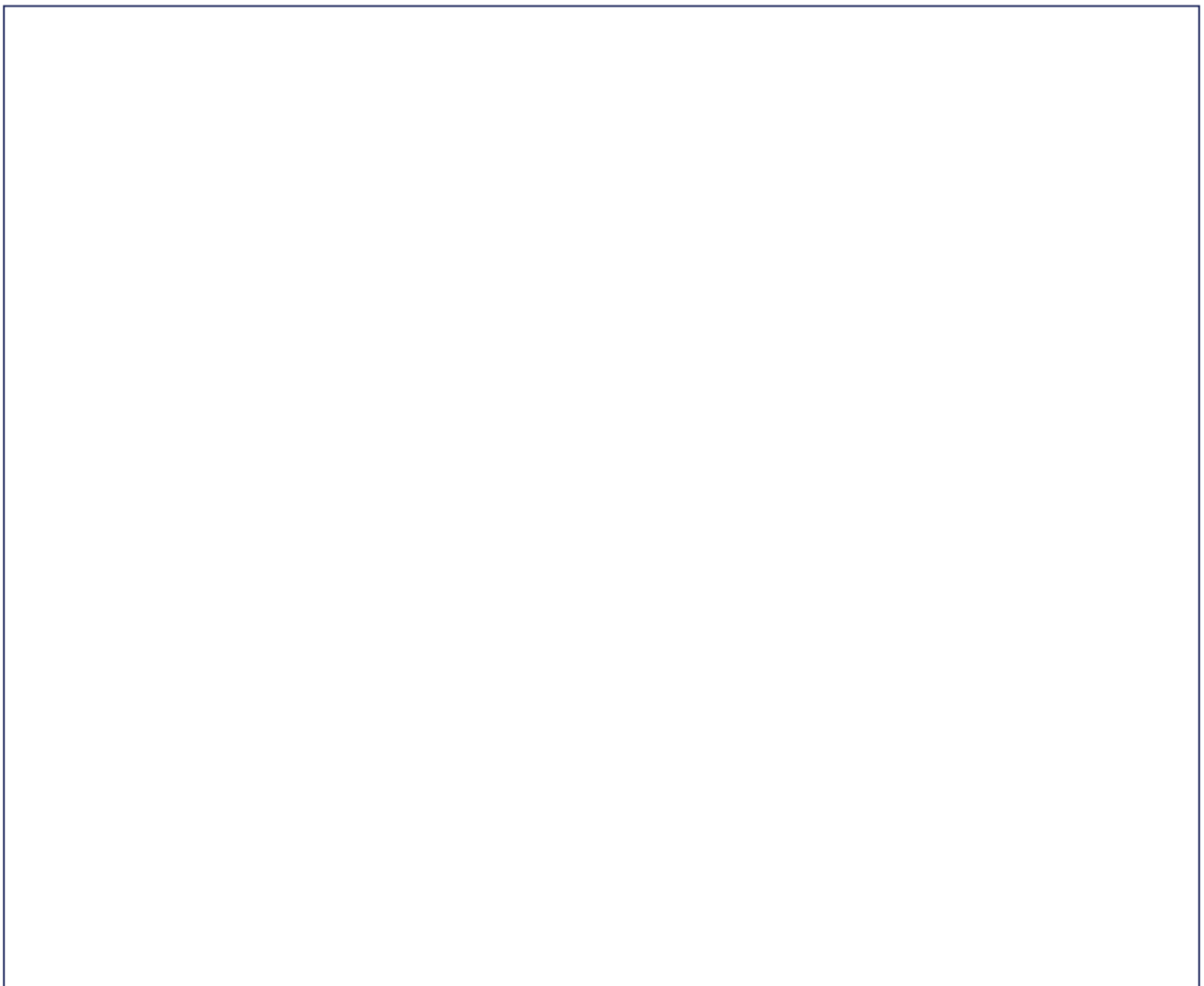


A Day in the Life of a Victorian Schoolchild

Learning objective: To understand the layout and atmosphere of a typical Victorian classroom through illustrative labelling and historical enquiry.

Use the drawing space provided to create a detailed scene of a Victorian classroom. Use your historical knowledge and the word bank to label the key features of the environment.

Draw: Draw a perspective view of a Victorian classroom. Include rows of wooden desks arranged in straight lines facing a large wall-mounted chalkboard. Include a 'Master's desk' on a raised platform at the front of the room. Add details like a map on the wall, an inkwell on the corner of a desk, and a student holding a slate. Use a clean, sketch-like style with clear lines for labelling.



Label words: Inkwell · Quill · Slate · Abacus · Map of the British Empire · High-backed chair · Chalkboard · Rows of desks

Steps:

1. Identify two items from your drawing that a Victorian child would use for their school work and explain why they were used.
2. Why were Victorian classrooms often designed with very high ceilings and large windows? (Hint: Think about lighting and ventilation).

3. Label the 'Inkwell' and 'Slate' on your drawing. Where would these usually be placed on a Victorian desk?
4. Describe the seating arrangement in a typical Victorian classroom. How does this compare to your classroom today?
5. If you were a Victorian schoolchild, what is one item from your modern classroom that you would be most surprised to see? Explain your choice.