

Victorian Life: A Diary Entry by Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To understand and describe what daily life was like for different people during the Victorian era.

Imagine you are living in the year 1885. Use the space below to write a diary entry from the perspective of someone living in Victorian Britain. Think about what your home was like, what jobs you might have had, and what you did for fun. Ellie the Elephant would love to read about your historical discoveries!

Word bank: Industrial Revolution · Workhouse · Victorian · Coal · Tenement · Steam engine · Schooling · Chimney sweep · Poverty · Wealth

1. Setting the Scene: Where are you living and what does your home look like? Describe your surroundings. (2 marks)

2. Daily Tasks: What is your main job or responsibility today? Describe how you spend your morning. (3 marks)

3. A Victorian Discovery: What is one invention or change happening in the world around you (e.g., steam trains, gas lamps, or schools)? (2 marks)

4. Food and Cost: Imagine you went to the market. What did you buy for your dinner and how much did it cost in £ (dollars and cents)? (2 marks)

5. Reflections: How does your life today compare to the life of a Victorian child from a different social class? (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Research a famous Victorian figure, such as Queen Victoria or Isambard Kingdom Brunel. Write a short paragraph explaining how they changed British history.