A Day in the Life: Victorian Diary Entry

Learning objective: To understand and describe what life was like for a child living in the Victorian era.

Imagine you are a child living in the year 1885. Ellie the elephant has been reading stories about the past, and now it is your turn to write a diary entry. Use the word bank to help you describe your home, school, or chores. Think about what your life might be like compared to today.

Word bank: workhouse · chimney sweep · slate · charcoal · factory · parlour · domestic · Victorian · industry · schooling

1. My Daily Chores: Describe one job you had to do at home or at work today. (2 marks)

2. School Life: What did your classroom look like and what were you learning about? (2 marks)

3. Mealtime: What food did you eat today? Was it different to what you have now? (2 marks)

4. A Victorian Invention: Mention one item you used today (like a steam train or a gas lamp) and explain how it helped you. (2 marks)

5. Reflecting on the Past: If you could tell a child from the future one thing about being a Victorian, what would you say? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Research one famous Victorian invention, such as the telephone or the postage stamp. Write a short paragraph explaining how it changed how people communicated.