Victorian Life with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To understand the daily lives, school routines, and social changes during the Victorian era.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of the Victorian period to answer in full sentences. Remember to think like a historian!

Ellie the Elephant has been reading through her giant history books! She has discovered that the Victorian era was a time of huge change in Britain, from the inventions of the steam engine to the way children lived and went to school. Use your historical knowledge to answer the questions below.

Word bank: Industrial Revolution · Workhouse · Slate · Chimney sweep · Queen Victoria · Ragged school

1. Queen Victoria reigned for a very long time. Roughly how many years was her reign, and why was this period called the 'Industrial Revolution'? (2 marks)

2. Victorian classrooms were very different from yours today. What two items would a typical Victorian child use to write their schoolwork on? (2 marks)

3. Many Victorian children from poor families had to work. Can you name one dangerous job that children were often forced to do during this time? (1 mark)

4. If a family could not afford to pay for food or a home, where might they be sent to live? Explain how life there was difficult. (2 marks)

5. Imagine a Victorian child goes to the market with 1 shilling. If an apple cost 2 pence, how many apples could they buy? (Hint: There were 12 pence in 1 shilling). (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a Victorian classroom scene. Show the rows of wooden desks, an inkwell, and a chalkboard on the wall.

Extension challenge: Research a Victorian invention, such as the telephone or the steam train. Write a short paragraph explaining how it changed the way people lived compared to life before the Victorian era.