A Day in the Life of a Victorian Child

Learning objective: To understand the daily experiences and surroundings of children living during the Victorian era.

Use your knowledge of the Victorian era to complete the drawing below. Think about what a classroom or a home might have looked like during the reign of Queen Victoria. Use the word bank to add labels to your illustration.

Draw: Create a split-scene drawing. On the left, draw a Victorian schoolroom with a wooden desk, a chalkboard on the wall, and a child wearing a pinafore. On the right, draw a Victorian living room with a large coal fireplace and an old-fashioned oil lamp on a small table. Use a detailed, historical style with neat labels pointing to specific items.

Label words: Slate · Chalk · Oil lamp · Pinnies · Coal fire · Inkwell · Quill

Steps:

1. Step 1: Draw a Victorian child sitting at a wooden school desk. Include a slate and a piece of chalk on the desk.
2. Step 2: Label the item the child is using to write on instead of a modern whiteboard.
3. Step 3: Draw a fireplace in the background of your picture and label it.
4. Step 4: Draw a simple oil lamp on a table to show how people lit their rooms before electricity.

5. Step 5: Write one sentence explaining why a Victorian child might have worn an apron or a 'pinny' to school.