

Victorians Part 2

How did your previous work with the Victorians go?

This is another chance to add more detail to it and become an expert.

Today we would like you to make a quiz. Could you design it (computer/writing etc) and send it to learnwithelc@gmail.com?

You could make different types of quiz such as a picture round....

Did you know?

Poor people often ate poor food. They had to buy cheap tea with blackberry leaves added, sugar mixed with sand, and milk thickened with powdered chalk! Meat once a week was a treat.

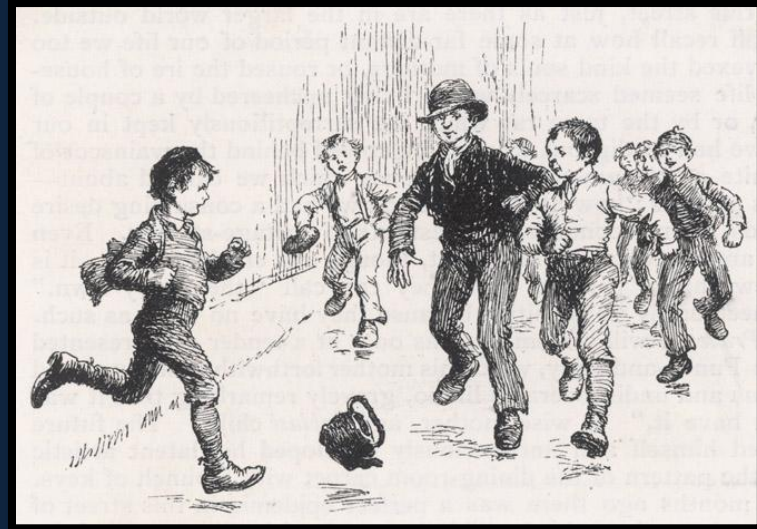
Boy servants in grand houses wore short jackets with lots of buttons - so the boys were called 'Buttons'.

'Mudlarks' were poor children who waded in the mud beside the river Thames in London, looking for lost rings or bits of scrap metal to sell.



Girl flower-sellers also sold oranges (when the fruit was available, not all year- round like today)
Oranges kept fresh longer than flowers.

Children at play



[Link to Victorian toyshop sort](#)

Children at play

Although many children worked in Victorian times, they still had time to play.

- Most Victorian children played in the street or in the fields and woods. Not many families had gardens big enough to play in, and there were no children's playgrounds.
- Rich families had playrooms or *nurseries*, but poorer children played wherever they could find space. With ten or more children often crammed into one or two rooms, play-space for poor families was a luxury. Playing outside was the usual escape.



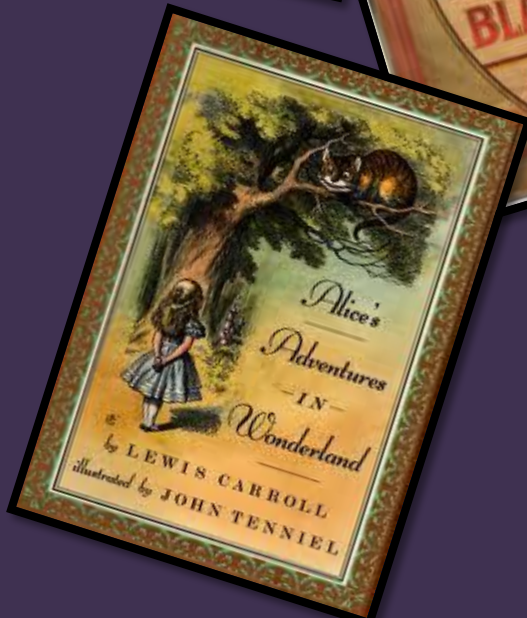
Watch Victorian toys and games video from the BBC.

Children at play: Street fun



- In street games, children shared toys like hoops, marbles and skipping ropes, with friends in the street, or in the school playground.
- They played chasing games such as tag and played catch with balls. If they hadn't got a proper ball, they made balls from old rags, and bats from pieces of wood.
- They also played *hopscotch*. Victorian children were able to play out in the street as there was less traffic than today. There were no cars until the 1880s.
- They crowded around street musicians, wheeling a *barrel organ*, which played tunes when the handle was turned. Sometimes barrel organ players had a monkey with them.

Children at play: Books



- Victorian children were often given books with improving *moral* lessons, about characters with names like Lazy Lawrence and Simple Susan.
- A favourite story was Charles Kingsley's *The Water Babies* about a badly treated chimney-boy.
- There were lots of books written specially for children, such as *Treasure Island* (about pirates) by R L Stevenson and *Black Beauty* (about a horse) by Anna Sewell.
- Perhaps the most famous Victorian children's book is *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1865) written by Lewis Carroll.

What was a Victorian classroom like?

- There were maps and perhaps pictures on the wall. There would be a *globe* for geography lessons, and an *abacus* to help with sums. Children sat in rows and the teacher sat at a desk facing the class. At the start of the Victorian age, most teachers were men, but later many women trained as teachers.
- Children wrote on *slates* with chalk. They wiped the slate clean, by spitting on it and rubbing with their coat sleeve or their finger! Slates could be used over and over. For writing on paper, children used a pen with a metal nib, dipped into an *ink well*.



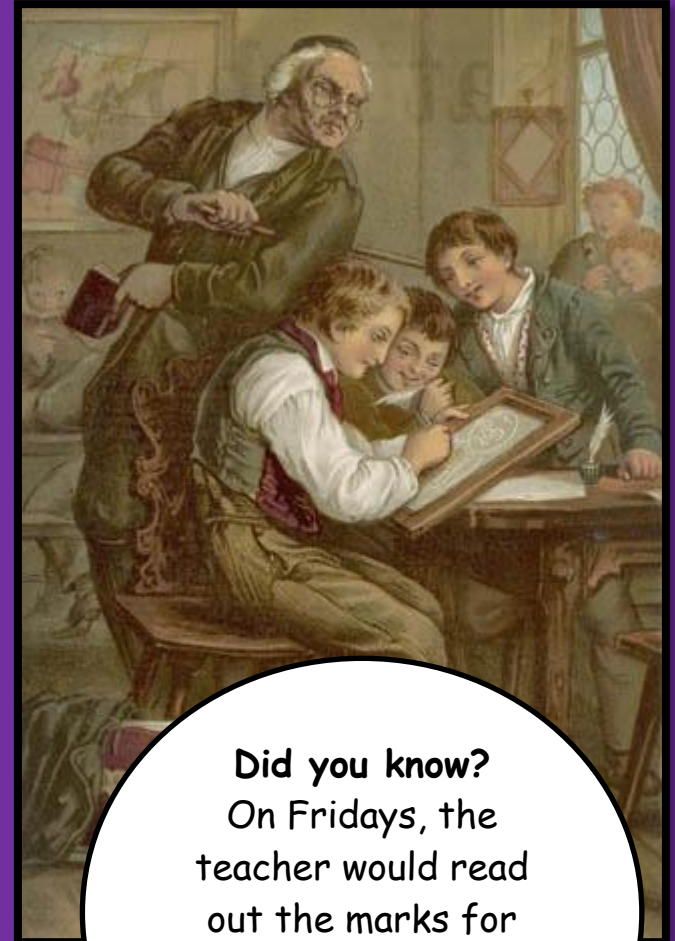
Did you know?

Victorian children did money sums (in pounds, shillings and pence).

They knew about measures we no longer use such as poles, perches, rods, chains and furlongs.

What subjects did children learn?

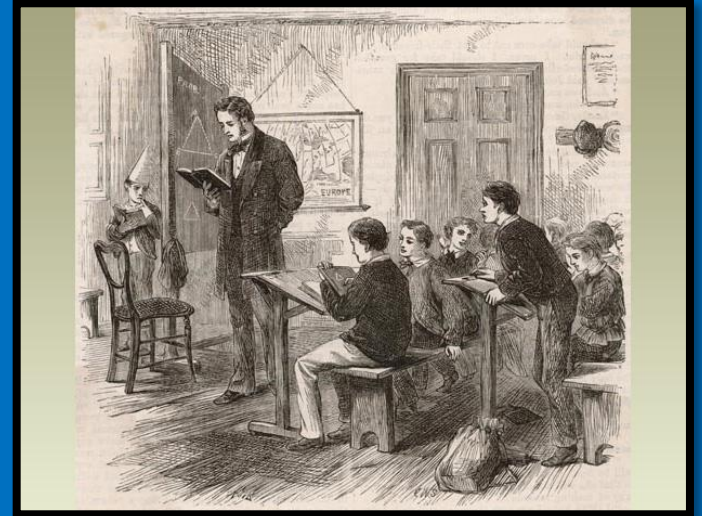
- Girls and boys learned together in primary schools, but were separated in secondary schools. Both boys and girls learned reading, writing, arithmetic, spelling and drill (PE).
- Boys learned technology: woodwork, maths and technical drawing, to help with work in factories, workshops or the army when they grew up.
- Girls had lessons in cooking and sewing, to prepare them for housework and motherhood.
- Children were often taught by copying and repeating what the teacher told them. Lessons included teaching in right and wrong, and the Christian religion.



Did you know?
On Fridays, the teacher would read out the marks for every child. If you did well, you went to the top of the class.

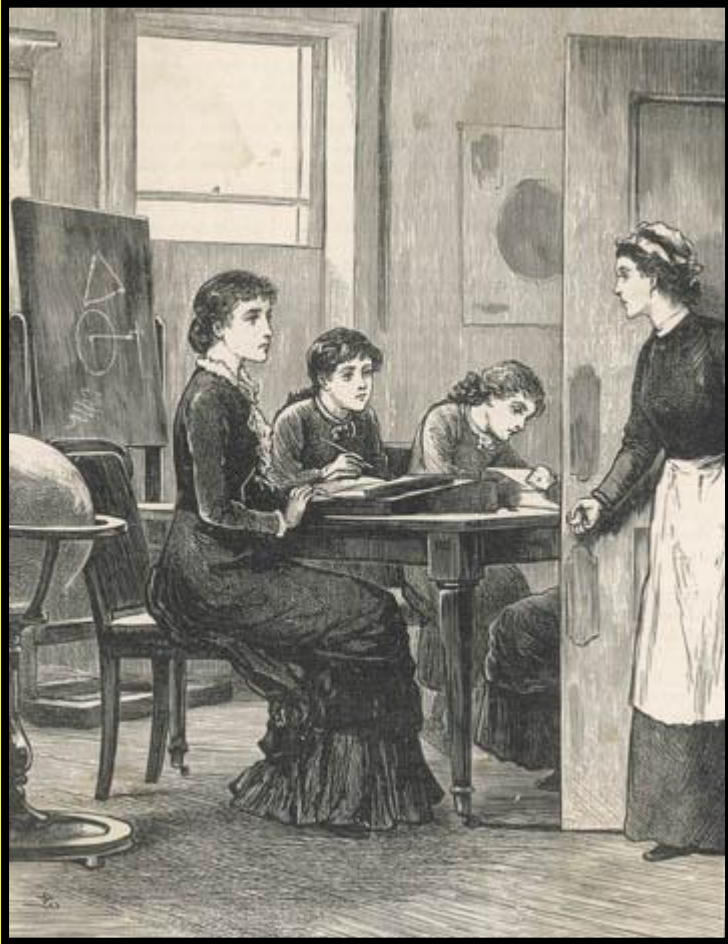
Discipline

- Discipline in schools was often strict. Children were beaten for even minor wrongdoings, with a cane, on the hand or bottom. A teacher could also punish a child by making them stand in the corner wearing a 'dunce's cap'. Another, very boring, punishment was writing 'lines'. This meant writing out the same sentence (such as 'Schooldays are the happiest days of my life' 100 times or more.



Did you know?
One rather unusual punishment was being sent to sit in the 'coal-hole' - where coal for the school fire was stored!

Rich boys and girls



- Boys from rich families were sent away to *boarding school*. Some '*public schools*', like Eton and Harrow, set high standards.
- Other schools were awful places, run to make profits for the owners. Boys in these bad schools were half-starved, ill-treated, and taught very little.
- Girls sent away to be trained as *governesses* were not much better off, as you can learn from reading *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte.
- Girls and young boys were taught at home by a male tutor or a female governess. The first good girls' schools were started in Victorian times, such as the North London Collegiate School (1850).

Doctor Barnardo



Audio clip
about
Dr
Barnardo
and the
Ragged
School

- Here are some interesting facts about the work of Dr Barnardo, founder of the charity Barnardo's, who provided homes and education for poor children in Victorian Britain.
- Thomas John Barnardo was born on 4th July 1845 and he died on 19th September 1905.
- He was born in Dublin, Ireland.
- When he was sixteen years old, he decided he wanted to become a Protestant medical missionary in China.
- He moved to London in order to train to be a doctor. He studied at the London Hospital, but never actually completed the course to earn a doctorate. Although he is known as 'Doctor' Barnardo, he never actually qualified as a doctor.

- During his time in London, Thomas Barnardo became interested in the lives of the Victorian poor. He was appalled by the number of people living on the streets of London and he witnessed the horrific effects of cholera, unemployment and overcrowding.
- Barnardo decided to put aside his plans to visit China. He opened his first 'ragged school' in 1867, in the East End of London, to educate and care for poor orphans.
- One of his pupils, a boy called Jim Jarvis, took Barnardo on a walk of the the East End, showing him the sheer number of poor children sleeping rough. Barnardo was so moved by the sight that he decided to do something about it.
- In 1870, Thomas Barnardo opened a home for boys in Stepney Causeway, providing shelter for orphans and destitute children. A sign hang on the building which said: 'No Destitute Child Ever Refused Admission'.
- Barnardo founded the Girls' Village Home. Located in Barkingside, the 'village' consisted of a collection of cottages and was home to 1500 poor girls.
- During his life Barnardo continued to open institutions that helped to care for poor children. By his death in 1905 it is estimated that his homes and schools cared for over 8000 children in more than 90 different locations.

Lord Shaftsbury (1801-1885)



Lord Shaftsbury video

- ❖ Anthony Ashley Cooper, the eldest son of the 6th Earl of Shaftesbury, was born on 28th April, 1801. He became the Earl of Shaftesbury in 1851.
- ❖ Lord Shaftesbury was a politician who attempted to improve children's lives during the Victorian times
- ❖ At the age of 25, he became a member of Parliament. He began to take an interest in the plight of poor children after reading newspaper reports about labour in industry.
- ❖ 1833 He proposed that children should work for a maximum of 10 hours a day
- ❖ 1834 the Factory Act was made law. It was now illegal for children under 9 to be employed in textile factories
- ❖ 1842 Coal Mines Act
No child or woman should work underground
- ❖ He was also interested in education for working children. He was chairman of the Ragged Schools Union - an organisation that set up over a hundred schools for poor children

The Great Exhibition

- The Crystal Palace was a huge glass and iron structure originally built in 1851 for the Great Exhibition held in London's Hyde Park.

- Countries including France, the United States, Russia, Turkey and Egypt all attended with exhibits falling into four main categories - Raw Materials, Machinery, Manufacturers and Fine Arts.



- Prince Albert, head of the Society of Arts, had the idea of an exhibition to impress the world with Britain's industrial achievements.

The Crystal Palace

- The Palace was designed by Sir Joseph Paxton and was enormous -1,848 feet long and 408 feet wide including two huge towers and many fountains with over 11,000 jets rising into the air.

Did you know?
Over 13,000
exhibits were
displayed and
viewed by over
6,200,000
people

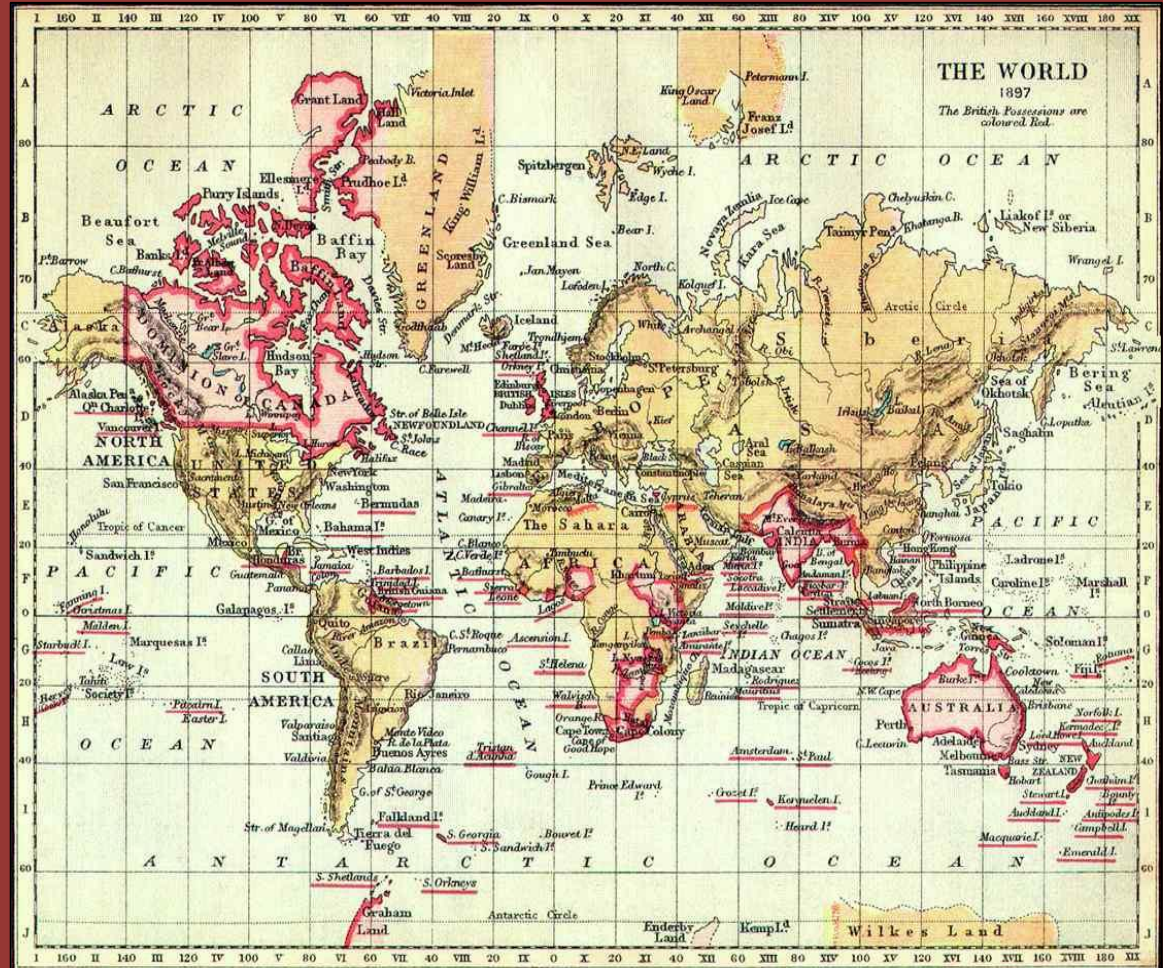


THE INCREDIBLE CRYSTAL PALACE

People bought expensive tickets to see the opening ceremony in the same way that people buy tickets for the Olympic opening ceremony today and the reaction was remarkable, with many visitors and newspapers proclaiming it as one of the most amazing wonders they had ever seen.

The British Empire

- Britain managed to build a huge empire during the Victorian period and became the most powerful and richest country in the world, with the largest empire that had ever existed, ruling a quarter of the world's population (bits in red).



The British Empire: Trade

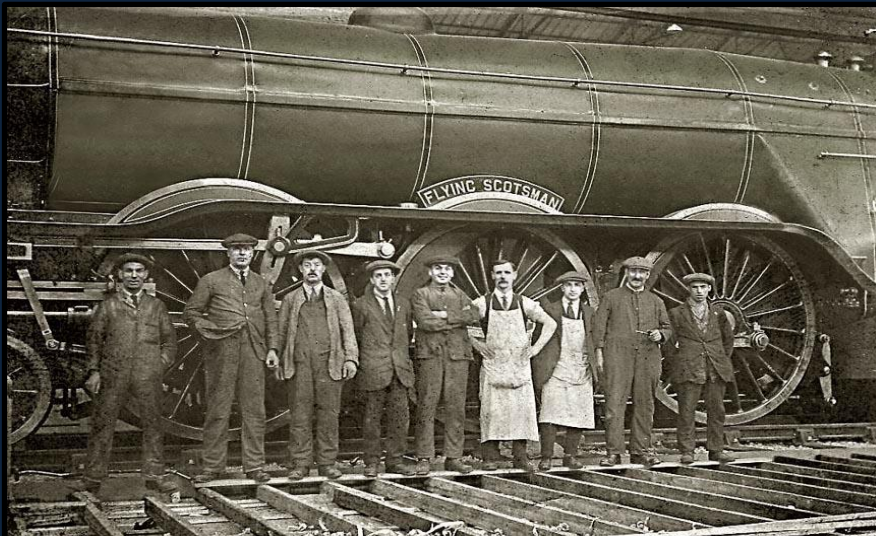
- Due to its military and industrial dominance Britain emerged as the most powerful trading nation in the world.
- With the introduction of steam power Britain's core industries, such as the mining of coal, minerals and other raw materials and the production of iron, textiles and manufactured goods, were increased.
- Trade was also greatly improved by the arrival of railways and steamships, which enabled goods to be easily transported around the world...



- ...Although it wasn't just materials and equipment that were sold. One of Britain's main exports at the time were people, who were taken or purchased from Africa and sold as slaves.

British Empire: Trade

Merchants sent out ships to trade with North America and the West Indies, where England had established a network of colonies, bringing back delicacies such as tea, coffee, sugar, tobacco, cotton, silk and wine to feed an increasingly rich and growing population.



Victorian clothes



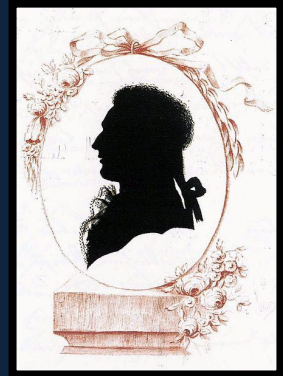
- Victorian people dressed appropriately to their age, and position in society.
- In 1900, a middle-class family could only afford three full sets of outerwear, and because laundering by hand was a universally dreaded chore, they rarely washed their clothes. To endure heavy use, outfits were typically made of durable fabrics, such as wool, and came in dull colours that concealed dirt.
- Clothing featured buttons made of pearl, horn, wood, bone, or Casein, made from milk curds.

Victorian Art

- Lots of Victorians used their talents to design and create art work for people to admire:
- **William Morris** was famous for designing repeating patterns to use for wallpapers or textiles. Many of these were based on a close observation of nature.



- Silhouette portrait pictures cut from thin black card became a cheap and novelty way of sharing a picture of yourself with others.



In 1843 the first Christmas card was created and sent, designed by John Calcott Horsley. A thousand copies of the card were printed and sold for one shilling, starting an annual tradition.