

# Topic – Industrial Revolution (History)

## Week 6

L.O. I can read about Victorian school life and answer questions.

Cross-curricular links history/reading comprehension

Can you read the text and answer the questions?

# Victorian School Life

Life in a Victorian school was very different from today. There were no laptops, tablets or films to watch. Teachers were much stricter, too.

## School

At first, only some children went to school. Boys from rich families went to private schools. Girls were often taught at home. Some churches provided free schools for poor children but the classrooms were often really big. Sometimes they were so big, there would be 100 pupils.

In 1880, the law changed. Every child between the ages of five and ten had to go to school.

## Lessons

Pupils called male teachers, 'Sir' and female teachers, 'Madam' or 'Miss'. In a lot of the lessons, pupils had to listen and watch the teacher write things on the blackboard. The pupils then had to copy everything down.

Reading, writing and maths were very important. Instead of learning in a fun way, children often had to remember everything. They would say the times tables until they knew them off by heart.

Days were very long. They usually lasted until 5:00 pm but pupils went home for a long lunch. Here is what a Victorian school day might be like:

Time	Lesson
9:00 - 9:10	prayers
9:10 - 10:10	Bible work
10:10 - 11:10	maths
11:10 - 11:30	play time
11:30 - 12:00	writing
12:00 - 2:00	lunch
2:00 - 2:45	PE
2:45 - 3:30	woodwork (for boys) cookery (for girls)
3:30 - 4:30	science
4:30 - 5:00	reading

1. How were teachers different in Victorian times? Tick **one**.

- they were nicer
- they were really funny
- they wore black dresses
- they were stricter

2. **Classrooms were often really big.**

How many children could you sometimes get in a church school class?

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3. **In 1880, the law changed.** After that, every child had to go to school.

Explain why this was a good thing?

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4. Matching (drawing lines).

9:10 – 10:10 ●

12:00 – 2:00 ●

4:30 – 5:00 ●

● Reading

● Bible work

● Lunch

5. What might be the punishment if you were rude? Tick **one**.

- miss golden time
- sent home
- no stickers
- the cane