



# Victorian School Days

## History

### Lessons:

Reading, writing and arithmetic were called the three Rs. They were the most important lessons in Victorian schools alongside religious education. Other lessons included needlework for girls and woodwork for boys.



### Teachers:

Most teachers were very strict in Victorian times. They expected children to behave well and be clean and tidy. They punished children who misbehaved or didn't work hard enough.



### Classrooms:

Some classrooms held up to 70 or 80 children. Boys and girls sat separately. Children sat in rows and faced the front. The teacher used a blackboard and wrote with chalk. Children wrote on slates with slate pencils.



### Punishments:

There were many punishments in Victorian classrooms. Teachers hit children with a cane if they misbehaved or made them wear a dunce's hat if they hadn't worked hard enough.



### Rich children:



Rich Victorian children would have gone to school, or been taught at home, and they would have had lots of time to play.

Rich Victorian children usually had a variety of wooden or metal toys to play with. Toys were expensive so they wouldn't have had as many as you probably do!

### Poor children:

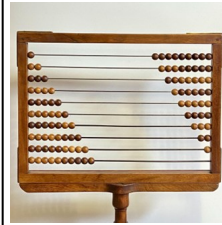
Children in poor households would often leave their schooling early to work in hard jobs or, if they were lucky, take on apprenticeships and learn a trade.

Poor children often lived in small, cramped homes with lots of siblings sharing a room, but some children grew up in the Workhouse, a place where poor people went when they had nowhere else to go for food or shelter.

Poor Victorian children's toys were usually simple home-made toys like peg dolls, ball & cup games, spinning tops, or hoops to play hoop trundle with.

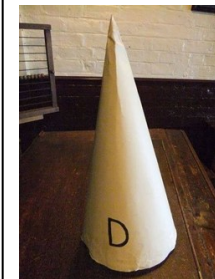
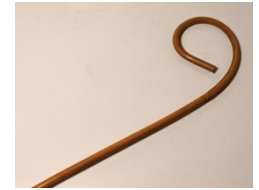


### Glossary



**Abacus:** A wooden counting frame.

**Cane:** A long piece of wood or bamboo that was used to punish children in the Victorian era.



**Dunce's cap:** A cone-shaped hat with a letter D on the front, which was worn by children in the Victorian era as a punishment.

**Punishment:** An unpleasant experience or task given to someone who has broken a rule.

**Strict:** Following and enforcing rules exactly.

**Victorian:** The time from 1837 to 1901 when Queen Victoria was the monarch of the United Kingdom.

