



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:

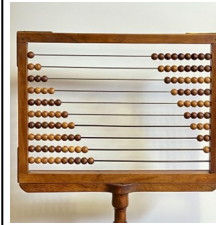
Children in poor households would often leave their schooling early to work in hard jobs or, if they were lucky, take on apprenticeships and learn a trade.

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.

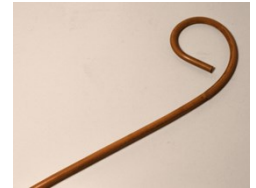


Glossary



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.

