

School days - what was school like in the past?

Victorian era

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

past

yesterday

days ago

weeks ago

last month

a long time ago

present

now

today

future

tomorrow

next week

next year

Queen Victoria

Queen Victoria was loved by her people. She ruled the United Kingdom and the people in other countries who were part of the British Empire.



Rich people

Rich Victorian people lived in large houses and were looked after by servants. Rich children had beautiful clothes and many toys. They went to boarding school or were taught at home.



Industrial Revolution

Victoria became queen during the start of the Industrial Revolution. At this time, new machines were invented and factories were built. The Industrial Revolution made the United Kingdom a very powerful and rich country.



Poor people

Poor Victorian people lived in small houses and worked in factories, coal mines and mills. Poor children wore rags and had little food to eat. Many went to work instead of going to school.



Vocabulary

Chronological	The order in which events happened.
Victorian era	The time when Queen Victoria was the monarch of the United Kingdom.
Invention	Something new that has never been made before.
Punishment	An unpleasant task given to someone who has broken a rule.
Strict	Flowing and enforcing a rule exactly.

What were Victorian schools like?



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.



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.