

LIVING IN THE PAST

VICTORIAN CHILDREN AT WORK

Life in Victorian times was hard for children born into a poor family, and most Victorian families were poor. Many families would have as many as ten children, all living together in a small two-up, two-down house. Children would sleep cramped together in the same bedroom and even share the same bed with all their brothers and sisters. Families often lived in dirty conditions and children would often catch diseases and become sick. Many children even died at a very early age.

During Victorian times families had to pay to send their children to school, and most could not afford to do this. As a result, most children had to go to work from the age of 4 or 5 years old. At the start of Victorian times most people worked in cottage industries, making things from home. But then a huge change came: The Industrial Revolution. Mills and factories were built in farming areas, and houses were built for the workers. Towns and cities across England began to grow and canals and railways were built to move goods from one town to another. The towns which now make up Tameside were covered in mills and factories making hats and weaving cotton. There were also many coal mines. The men who owned the railways, cotton mills, factories and coal mines needed cheap workers and knew that they didn't have to pay children very much so they employed children to work alongside the adults. There were no laws to protect children, so they worked long hours doing the dangerous jobs that the adults didn't want to do.



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How good is your Victorian knowledge? Watch the 'Victorian Children at Work' short film and see if you can answer the 20 questions. What have you found out about Charlie and Florence?



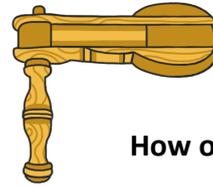
Why did Charlie have to go to work?



Where does Charlie work?
And what is his job?



What animal and bird does Charlie mention that help him to work?



How old is Charlie?



What is a 'getter'?

Can you list two possible accidents that could happen to Charlie whilst at work in the mine?



What is a hurrier and thruster?
And why does Charlie want to be one?

Why does Charlie have to leave the crusts of his sandwich lunch?



Why does Charlie dream of working on a farm?



Can you list four jobs you may have had to do when working on a farm?

What was the cotton mill like?



When did Florence start work?

Why did Florence want to go to school?



How old is Florence?

What are mules?



What time did Florence start work and finish at the end of the day as a maid?

What is a scavenger? And why was it a dangerous job?



When Florence was 12 years old what was her job?



Can you list five different things a girl would do as a maid?

How many days of the week did Florence work?

culture

Tameside

Tameside
Metropolitan Borough

