

7th January 2021

I can ask and answer questions based on Victorian images.



When was the Victorian period?

1837 - 1901



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Image 1

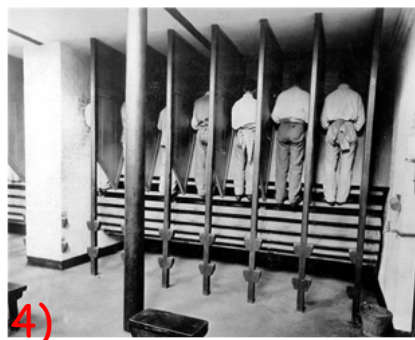
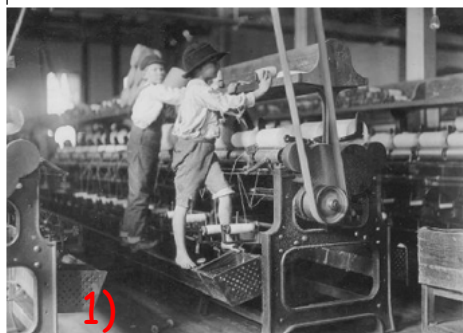


What questions does this photo make you want to ask?

What do you already know about things in the photo? Make sensible suggestions.

Conditions in Victorian Factories

- Life was very hard for workers in most Victorian factories. The working day lasted for twelve hours or more and Sunday was the only full day off. Some factories did allow the workers to go home early on Saturdays.
- The machines were very loud and they thundered relentlessly all day long.
- The workers had to move quickly to keep up with the machinery. Workers could be fined or sacked for falling behind.
- In cotton mills, dust from the yarn covered the workers and got in their throats. In order to make sure that the cotton was kept strong, factory owners kept their mills warm and damp. This meant that the workers often suffered with lung and chest infections.
- In 1851, more than 500,000 of Britain's children were working – and many of these were working in factories. Factory owners often paid children a small fraction of the wages they paid to grown men and women.
- Children, sometimes as young as six, carried out dangerous tasks, such as clearing blockages on spinning frames in mills.
- Children in factories were often beaten when they made mistakes or worked too slowly.
- Many workers were killed or injured by the machines they worked with. They didn't have any safety features and they were slow to stop if a worker got caught up in them.
- Many factory workers lived in overcrowded, poor quality housing. Built near to the factories themselves, these houses were dirty and they often didn't have proper drains or separate areas in which to prepare food.
- Diseases spread quickly through the populations of Britain's factory towns. Many children died from measles and typhoid.



For each photo, ask at least three questions and try to make possible suggestions for answers.

