

Lesson plan: Victorian children

Lesson objective: To provide an understanding of the life of a Victorian child, at home and at school

Curriculum links: (11,a) Victorian Britain or Britain since 1930. Cross-curricular links to Art and Design (5,c) and Drama (4, a)

Time:	Activity:	Explanation:	Resources:	Notes:
10 minutes	Now & then	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Display the photographs you have downloaded onto the whiteboard to use as stimulus for this activity. Ask pupils to volunteer some suggestions as to how life was different for a child in Victorian times compared with today. Pupils should be encouraged to write their suggestions on the whiteboard. Encourage pupils to think about the differences between wealthy and poor families and the type of jobs that children in poor families would have been required to do. 	Selection of photographs representing home and school life from Victorian and modern day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research and download images from the internet to represent both periods and use as stimulus. The poster timeline can be used as further stimulus to encourage pupils to consider the social climate at the time and think about the type of modern luxuries to which they are accustomed that Victorian children did not have.
20 minutes	In the classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photocopy and distribute Pupil worksheet 1: The Victorian classroom. Explain that at the start of Victoria's reign only a few children attended school as most poor children worked to help contribute to their families' income. Introduce pupils to Dame schools and Ragged schools and key figures such as Lord Shaftesbury, John Pounds and Dr Barnardo. Now ask pupils to complete the activities on this worksheet. Pupils should be encouraged to think about their visit to The Old School House attraction at Dickens World for additional stimulus. 	Pupil worksheet 1: The Victorian classroom Poster timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As an alternative execution, pupils can be encouraged to cut out each of the classroom items on the worksheet and stick them into their workbooks under the appropriate classroom picture. Explain that the 1876 and 1880 Elementary Education Acts placed a duty on parents to ensure that their children received elementary instruction in reading, writing and arithmetic.
20 minutes	At home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photocopy and distribute Pupil worksheet 2: The Victorian home. Pupils should work through the activities on this worksheet, using their workbooks to complete Activity 2. Pupils can be encouraged to share their responses with the rest of the class. Pupils can be encouraged to complete Activity 2 as a collage, using cut-out pictures from magazines and newspapers of key 'modern day' items to illustrate their homes. 	Pupil worksheet 2: The Victorian home Stimulus photographs used for 'Now and then' starter activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If time dictates, pupils can select one of the characters to respond to as an alternative to comparing all four. Role-play can be used to support this worksheet. Ask pupils to work in pairs, with one assuming the role of the rich child and the other the role of the poor child. Encourage pupils to ask and answer questions about the life of the characters they are playing. As an extension activity, pupils can select one of the characters from the worksheet and write a diary entry for them, detailing how that character might spend their day, thoughts and feelings etc.
10 minutes	Recap	Quick Q and A session to recap on key learnings.	None required	

Differentiation

- Less able pupils can be encouraged to work in pairs for these activities with more able children.
- More able pupils can further research some of the Victorian classroom items on Pupil worksheet 1 using the internet (ICT) (1,a).

Key words & names:

Abacus

Arithmetic

Dame schools

Dr Barnardo

Education

Elementary

John Pounds

Lord Shaftesbury

Queen Victoria

Ragged schools

Slate

Victorian

