

# Deepdale Community Primary School - British History Knowledge Organiser - Victorian Britain

Enquiry Question: **As a child, was it really better to be rich than poor in Victorian times?**

Autumn 2 Year 5

## Vocabulary you will know...



workhouse	A place where the very poor, young and elderly got food and a bed in return for work
gruel	A watery form of porridge served in the workhouses
slums	An area of bad housing with poor hygiene and sanitation
boarding school	A school where children live during term time, coming home for the holidays
governess	A tutor who taught rich girls skills including sewing, singing, dancing and languages
dame school	A type of school that was run by a woman in their house
textile mill	A factory where cloth and linen were created
Ragged School	A type of charity school where poor children would be educated

## Key Knowledge: Rich or Poor?



At the start of the Victorian era, children could be sent to work at a young age and used as cheap labour in mines and factories

Small boys would be driven up chimneys to clean out the soot - many died of lung disease while they were very young

Rich children were expected to be 'seen and not heard'  
Sons of wealthy parents were sent to boarding schools that became well known for bullying them

The aim for wealthy girls was for them to get married - a governess taught them skills to make them an attractive bride

Parents were expected to pay for their children to go to school - many families were too poor to afford this

Punishment in school included the dunce cap, punishment baskets and the cane

Rich children often played inside with rocking horses, toys and board games

## Artefact 1: Games

Poor children were forced to play outside, often on the streets, due to their cramped conditions in their houses. Games included hoop and stick, marbles and spinning tops.



## Artefact 2: Ragged school

Children that were incredibly poor attended a Ragged School that was run by charity. Taught in huge classes, the children were also trained to work in industries as they weren't expected to be successful.



## Timeline

1830	1833	1837	1847	1864	1870	1878	1891	1901
Victoria becomes Queen regent	Factories act: Children restricted to working no more than 12 hours a day	Victoria ascends to the throne	Factories Act: Children restricted to working no more than 63 hours per week	It becomes illegal for children to work as chimney sweeps	The Education Act allows children to be schooled	Law makes it illegal for children under 10 to work. All children under 10 must be educated	Free Education Act: State pays for education up to 10 shillings per week	Death of Queen Victoria aged 82