

### What was it like to be a child in the Victorian times?



Children sat at tables and chairs in the Victorian classroom. Schools had strict rules that came with harsh punishments.

If you didn't go to school you had to work. Some children went to school and then worked after! Girls often worked as maids or cleaners. Boys worked as chimney sweepers, if they were small enough to climb up the chimneys. Children were exposed to very dangerous conditions.

Houses had no toilets, running water, or electricity.



# The Victorians

### What were toys like in the Victorian times?

The toys that children played with in the Victorian times were different to the toys we play with today. The toys you play with today are different to the ones that your parents and grandparents played with too. Toys change over generations. Many Victorian toys were made from wood. Children were very precious and you only had a few toys so you had to share them with brothers and sisters.



### What did a Victorian Christmas look like?

A Victorian Christmas was centered around the family. The decorating of the tree, the preparation and eating of the Christmas dinner feast, making decorations, Christmas crackers, Christmas cards, gift giving and entertainment were all essential to the celebration of Christmas. Christmas was a festival that the poor could rarely afford to take part in.

There are lots of similarities to our Christmas today.



The Victorians would enjoy singing Christmas carols and this was considered to be a great source of entertainment.

### Why do we have Christmas trees?

The tradition of having Christmas trees came from Germany. In Germany, lots of people brought trees into their houses at Christmas and decorated them.

In the Victorian times, the Queen was Queen Victoria. She got married to Prince Albert who was from Germany. Prince Albert brought a Christmas tree into Windsor Castle in London, and because he was married to the Queen, lots of people then started this tradition in England.

