



KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

HISTORY: CHILDHOOD

Y4 SUMMER TERM

KEY VOCABULARY:	
WORDS	MEANING
Age of majority	the age at which children were usually regarded as full adults
Adolescence	the period following the onset of puberty during which a young person develops from child into an adult
Childhood	the age span ranging from birth to adolescence
Extended family	usually several relatives of different generations living in the same household
Infant mortality rate	the statistics of children dying in their first year of life
Legislation	law(s)
Period labels	these include Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Middle Ages, early modern, the Industrial Revolution, Victorian
Philanthropist	someone who helps others, often with money, and often secretly with no return.
Different types of schools	charity, grammar, dame, public, board, church

KEY KNOWLEDGE:
QUESTION 1: In which times were children expected to work?
ANSWER In Victorian times, many families had 10 or more children. Poor children had to work and were very lucky if they went to school. Families got no money unless they worked and most people thought it was good for children. The industrial revolution created new jobs in factories and mines. Many of these jobs were at first done by children because children were cheap – a child was paid less than adults (just a few pennies a week) Children started work at 5am!
QUESTION 2: What leisure activities did children used to do?
ANSWER Families in Victorian Britain might go to the park as an outing where crowds would listen to music at the bandstand. Zoos were popular too. The Railway in this era meant families could go to the seaside for the day. The better off would go for a week to Blackpool or Margate. Victorians also loved the theatre and most towns had a music hall. At Christmas, children might be taken to the pantomime.
QUESTION 3: What was education like?
ANSWER Victorian schools had desks facing the front. Most teachers were men and children wrote on slates. All children learned reading, writing, maths and P.E. Boys learned woodwork and technical drawing and girls sewing and cooking. Children were punished with a cane for wrongdoing or by writing lines.
QUESTION 4: Who improved the lives of children?
ANSWER Reformers campaigned for new laws to improve working conditions for children and to give children the opportunity for schooling. In 1870 parliament said there had to be a school in every town and village. At this point families paid a few pennies a week to send their children but not all children went. By 1880 the law said that all children aged 5-10 had to go to Primary school.



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KEY PEOPLE:

NAME	WHAT THEY DID
Lord Shaftesbury MP 1801-1885	1833 – Who proposed a maximum 10 hour working day for children 1834 – Factory Act – Children under 9 could not work in textile factories 1842 – Children could not work underground Set up 100 schools for the poor

SUGGESTED WEBSITES TO FIND OUT MORE:

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/victoria_britain

www.victoriachildren.org/victorian-children-in-victorian-times