



HOME LEARNING

Subject: History – Living Conditions in Victorian England Part 2 **Time-** 50 minutes

Learning Objective: To continue to investigate the unhealthy and dangerous living conditions of Victorian England through History sources.

TASK 1: Watch the horrible Histories video on living conditions for the poor.

TASK 2: Read and look at the sources A-C that show the living conditions for the poor in Victorian times and answer the questions that accompany them.

TASK 3: **OPTIONAL EXTENSION TASK** Read the last sources D-G and write pretend you have moved into a Victorian town

Save your work:

If you are using a computer, open a blank document to do your work (you can use Word or Publisher). Don't forget to SAVE it with your name, the lesson you are doing and the date.

For example: T.Smith Maths 8 April

If you would like us to see or mark your work please email it or send a photo of your completed work to:

mnoable@glebe.bromley.sch.uk

Thank you

Task 1- Click on the you tube link below. It is a collection of lots of Horrible Histories videos. You need to fast forward until you get to 11.25 and watch until the video reaches 13.40. This is the part you need for this lesson. (Of course you can watch as much of the video as you want but this is the part you need to focus on for the lesson). It shows a poor couple who are looking to move into a house during the Victorian period.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HVGaumifWkE>

TASK 2- Please read the sources below about the living conditions

SOURCE A

In 1850, the writer Charles Reade visited the town of Sheffield. He didn't stay long! When he got home, he described Sheffield as 'perhaps the most hideous town in creation'. He reported that black smoke blocked out the sun. He wrote that 'sparkling streams entered the town ... but soon got filthy, full of rubbish, clogged with dirt and bubbling with rotten, foul smelling gases'. So what made Sheffield stink? And why was Sheffield – and many other towns like it – turning into such a disgusting place to live?

Sheffield was no different to many other English towns at this time. Towns like Manchester, Leeds, Liverpool, Birmingham, Nottingham and Bolton were equally as bad. Yet each of these towns had existed for hundreds of years. Why then, did they become such horrible places to live?

The answer lies in one simple fact: once a factory was built, perhaps making cloth, iron or pottery, people would flood in from the countryside in order to find work.

1. What town did the writer Charles Read visit in 1850?
2. Was Sheffield the only town with these types of living conditions?
3. What other towns had living conditions like Sheffield?
4. What was being built in these towns?

SOURCE B

Town	Population 1750	Population 1801	Population 1851
Liverpool	35 000	82 000	376 000
Birmingham	30 000	71 000	233 000
Leeds	14 000	53 000	172 000
Manchester	45 000	75 000	450 000
Sheffield	12 000	45 000	150 000

Population means the number of people living in a certain place. The table above shows how many people lived in 5 different towns in England. It also shows how the population grew (got bigger) in these towns over a period of 100 years.

5. What was the population in Liverpool in 1750?
 6. What was the population of Leeds in 1801?
 7. What was the population of Manchester by 1851?
- EXTENSION QUESTIONS (you don't have to do these if you find them too hard).
8. How many more people were living in Manchester in 1851 than in 1750?
 9. Which town had the biggest increase in people between 1750 and 1851?

SOURCE C

The factory owners then had to build homes for the workers, usually nearby so that people could walk to work. These houses were built as quickly and cheaply as possible, crammed close together with narrow streets between them. Built in rows or **terraces**, the houses were built back-to-back to save space and money.

Almost all the houses were crowded, five or more people living in one small room. In 1847, 40 people were found sharing one room in Liverpool!

None of these houses had toilets either. The best some families could manage was a bucket in the corner of the room, which would be emptied now and again, either into the street or stored outside the door until there was enough to sell to a farmer as manure. Occasionally, there was a shared street toilet (a deep hole with a wooden shed over it) but this would be shared by 30 or 40 families. Sometimes a water pump provided water, but often the water only came from the local river or pond and this would be as filthy as the water in the streets.

10. Why did the factory owners need to build houses near the factories?

11. Why were the houses built back to back?

12. What did the families use to go to the toilet?

13. How many families sometimes shared the street toilet?

14. Where did the water in the pump come from?

Sewage trickled down the streets and constantly flowed into nearby rivers. Yet most families washed their clothes, washed their bodies and drank from the same river. It was little wonder that terrible diseases were common. There were no rubbish collections, street cleaners, sewers and no fresh running water. And nobody seemed to care!

15. What did most families use the river water for?

16. What were some of the services (that keep places clean and safe) that we have today that the Victorians did not have?

TASK 3- THIS IS AN OPTIONAL EXTENSION TASK - Read the remaining 4 sources D-G. Imagine you are a poor person who has moved to the town looking for work and are living in these conditions. Write a letter home to a family member or friend describing what it is like to live like this. Make sure you include details about your living conditions. Use the sources to help you. You can make the letter as long or as short as you like.

SOURCE D

‘There is one outside privy (toilet) for a whole street. Filth builds up at the back of the privy and is often not removed for up to 6 months. Men from the council are sent round with a horse and cart and a couple of shovels to remove it.’

SOURCE E

‘There are 39,000 people living in 7860 cellars which were dark, damp, dirty and unventilated. In one cellar there was a large hole in the floor. This hole was above a sewer. The mother who lived there feared for her baby as rats came up in the night, sometimes up to 20 at a time.’

SOURCE F

‘We saw drains and sewers emptying into a stream. Also in this stream had been thrown dead dogs and cats and other offensive articles. Downstream women filled buckets to use as drinking water, for cooking, washing and cleaning their clothes’

SOURCE G

‘The homes of 3000 families were visited. In 773 of them the families slept 3 and 4 to a bed, in 209 families 4 and 5 slept in a bed and in 15 families 6 and 7 slept in a bed. In one cellar we found a mother and her two grown up daughters sleeping on a bed of straw in one corner and 3 sailors slept in the other corner’