

# Children in Victorian times

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Spotlight 7  
Extensive reading

# Vocabulary

job

chimney sweeps

orphan

cotton factory

thread

fix

truck of coal

tunnel

main

push

narrow

wage

adult

cruel

master

accident

# Queen Victoria



Victoria was the Queen of England, from 1837 to 1901. During early Victorian times, poor children worked from the age of five to feed themselves and their families. These jobs weren't easy and were often dangerous.



## Chimney sweeps

Many children worked as chimney sweeps because they were small and thin.

They climbed up narrow chimney to clean them.

Street children or orphans usually did this job.

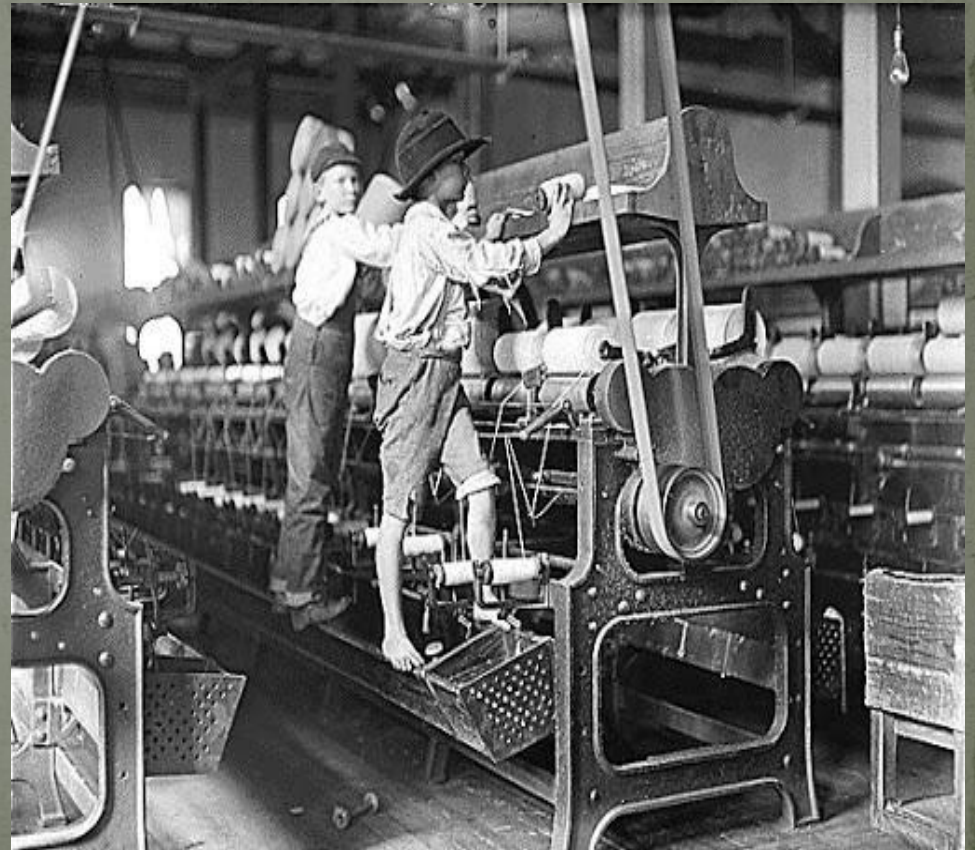
A lot of children also worked in cotton factories.

When the cotton threads broke, children went into the machine to fix them

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This was very dangerous.

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Other children worked in coal mines.



They pushed trucks of coal or they opened and closed doors to let air through tunnel.



Poor children had to work, because if they went to school, their families lost the money they earned. The masters were often cruel. Children worked long hours for very low wages.

A lot of children had health problems and accidents.



Lord Shaftesbury helped to stop adults from using young children at work. He started free schools for poor children. By the end of Victorian times all children went to school until the age of ten.



Ragged schools were set up to provide free basic education for orphans and very poor children.



Geo. Cruikshank

**THE RAGGED SCHOOL.**  
*In West Street (late Chick Lane) Smithfield.*

Drawn by George Cruikshank about 1843-4.

# Problem questions

- Do teenagers work in our country?
- What jobs do they do?
- Was the children's life in the 19<sup>th</sup> century different?
- Did they work? Did they go to school?
- Would you do any of these jobs? Why?

# Say if it is True or False

1. During Victorian times all the children had to work.

2. Their job was very hard and dangerous.

3. Children were used as chimney sweeps because of their size, they were small and thin.

4. Usually only brave children did this job.

5. Children went into the machine to fix broken cotton threads.

6. Other children worked in coal mines.

7. It was very hard job and lots of children had health problems.

8. By the end of Victorian times all the children went to school from the age of ten.

Home task

**Выполнить в тетради письменно  
задания (слайд 10 и 11)**