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## The Victorians - Life at School

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Victorian schools were very different places to modern schools. At the beginning of the Victorian period only children from the richest families went to school but by the end of the era school was compulsory and free for all children up to the age of 12.

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### Life at School

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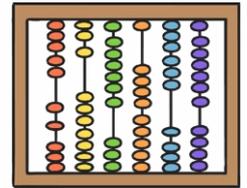
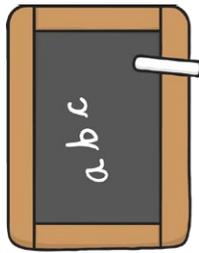


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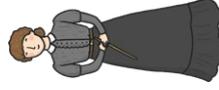
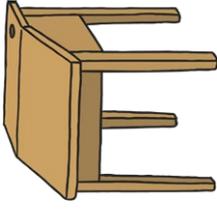
Stick this down on your lapbook - cut between the flaps down the solid line and fold them upwards. Paste the right information underneath the appropriate picture.

Make a school shaped pocket to keep your mini book in by cutting out the school picture and the tabs and sticking it to your lap book.

Stick this side down in your book.



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At the beginning of the Victorian Era, most teachers were men but women became more common towards the end of the era. Often women taught girls and men taught boys. Teachers were often strict and scary!

Desks were arranged in rows facing the front of the room. Class sizes of 40-60 were normal. One school had a classroom big enough for 300 pupils.

A Victorian timetable was based on the three Rs – Reading, writing and arithmetic. There was a lot of emphasis on perfecting handwriting and calculation methods. Drill was a bit like PE and included marching, jumping and running.

A dunce's hat was used as a punishment for classroom discipline. The wearer might have to stand against the wall or in the corner in the hope that embarrassment would prevent them repeating their behaviour.

An abacus was used in the Victorian classroom as an aid to calculation. Pupils also had to practise written methods for calculations repeatedly.

Children wrote on slates with chalk or slate pencils. They wiped the slate clean with a cloth, with their coat sleeve or with their fingers!

Victorian teachers had canes for punishing pupils. Pupils could get into trouble for talking, answering back, slow work and being late for school.

Older children wrote on paper. An 'ink monitor' distributed ink to the children, who kept it in the inkwells in their desks. They used wooden pens with steel tips. The pen had to be dipped in the ink every few words.