

What should I already know?

- The past has already happened.
- Some things have changed from the past to the present day.
- I know that there are similarities and differences in relation to places, objects, materials and living things.

How can we find out about the past?

- We can talk to someone who was around at the time – ask questions.
- We can look at photographs or paintings.
- We can read books about that time.
- We can read the diaries of people around at the time.
- We can watch historical films about the period in history.

What will I find out by the end of the unit?

Victorian school

- Children had to be in school until the age of 12.
- After that children could leave school to go to work.

What did they learn?

- Reading, writing and arithmetic were taught for most of the day.
- Once a week children had lessons in geography, history and singing. The girls learned how to sew.
- Children sometimes did 'drill' in the classroom.
- Children wrote on a slate with slate pencils.

The school day

- School morning was 9am – 12pm.
- Children went home for lunch.
- Afternoons ran from 2pm-5pm.

Punishments

- Children were beaten by canes. Boys were caned on their backsides whereas girls would be hit on their legs or hands.
- Children who were slower than the rest within lessons were made to wear the dunce hats and sit in the corner for over an hour.

School within living memory

All children have to go to school until they are 16.

What did they learn?

- Children were taught reading, writing and maths each day with other lessons such as geography, history etc. once a week.
- PE is now taught weekly in the school hall or outside.
- Children have exercise books or workbooks and follow either a text book or teaching cards.
- Teachers would either stand at the front or sit at a desk. Children would queue up at the desk to have work marked.

The school day

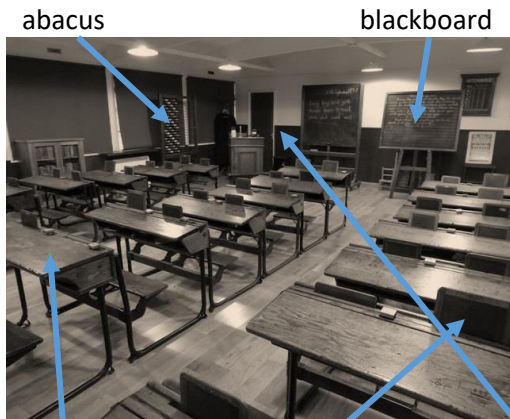
- School runs from 9am – 3:30pm and children stay in school for lunch.

Punishments

- 1984 a law banned the use of punishment by hitting at home or in school.
- Teachers were still strict.
- Children who struggled in class still got little help.

Vocabulary

arithmetic	maths – addition, subtraction, multiplication, division
abacus	a piece of equipment for counting
drill	exercise done by the side of the desk
slate	type of flat stone for writing on
cane	long thin piece of wood
dunce's hat	hat worn by a child who cannot keep up in class
banned	stopped from doing something
beat	to hit someone or something



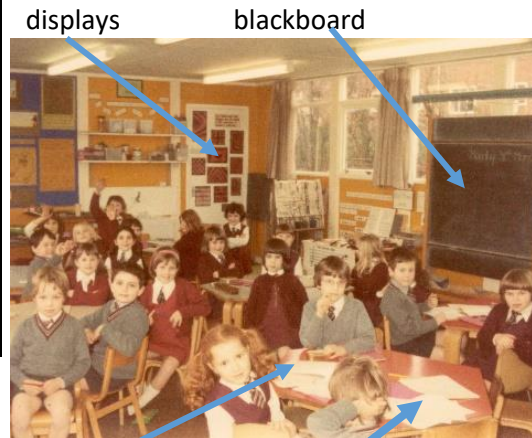
desks in rows

slates

plain walls



Dunce's hat



desks in groups

paper