

# School Days



These activities are for you to do at home with an adult. You can do all of them or choose the ones that you find most interesting.

## Activities

1. Put these time words and phrases in order, then write a sentence using each of them.

- a long time ago
  - in the future
  - last week
  - today
  - last year
  - tomorrow
  - yesterday
2. A timeline is a line that has important events on it in chronological order. Complete a timeline of your life. Think about the important things that have happened and when, such as being born, starting school and moving year groups.
3. Children go to school for teaching and learning. It is a special place for children for lots of different reasons. Write a list poem entitled 'My school is a special place' to explain why school is a special place for you. Use a capital letter at the start of each sentence and a full stop at the end.
4. Draw a plan of your school from memory and label the different areas, such as the hall, library and classrooms. Then choose one of these areas and circle it on your plan. Write a few sentences to explain what the area is used for and why the area is important to you.
5. It is important to care for each other and look after objects and equipment when we are in school. Think of an important message or action for how everyone should behave in school. For example, it is important to use kind and polite words with each other. Design a poster to display in school to encourage and remind children about your important action or message.



6. The Victorian era was the time from 1837 to 1901 when Queen Victoria was the monarch of the United Kingdom. Use books and the internet to answer these questions about Queen Victoria.

### **Early life**

- When was Queen Victoria born?
- What hobbies did she have?

### **Becoming queen**

- When did Princess Victoria become queen?
- When did she get married and who did she marry?
- How many children did Queen Victoria have?

### **Queen Victoria's reign**

- For how many years did Queen Victoria reign?
- When did she die and where was she buried?
- Who was the following monarch?

7. Look at and compare the images showing rich and poor Victorian families. Record your observations by writing a few sentences about each picture. Then talk with an adult about how these pictures compare to family life today.



Rich Victorian family



Poor Victorian families

8. Use a range of sources to answer the questions about Victorian schools.
- What were classrooms like in Victorian schools? How do they compare to your classroom?
  - What were Victorian teachers like and how did they behave?
  - What did children learn in Victorian schools?
  - How were children punished in Victorian schools?
9. Read this information about Samuel Wilderspin. Then, answer the questions.

Samuel Wilderspin was a teacher, who is known as the founder of infant education. He had enjoyed learning at home and looked forward to going to school. When he started school, he didn't like the strict teachers or the boring lessons. He believed that children should enjoy school and be happy. He invented the school playground, so that children could play outside.

Samuel Wilderspin had four important rules about teaching children:

- Children should be given good food to eat at school.
- Teachers should explain everything properly so that children could learn.
- Children should not be given too much work to do or be given work that they could not understand.
- Children should be allowed to play and sing as well as learn reading, writing and maths.



- Do you think that Samuel Wilderspin's rules made Victorian schools better for children? Explain your answer.
- What rules would you have in your school if you could?

**10.** Finish your home learning by writing some sentences or explaining to an adult what you have learned about school in the past compared to school today, Queen Victoria and the Victorian era.

## Useful websites

BBC Primary History – Education and life in the Victorian classroom

BBC Primary History – A Victorian Board School

CBBC – The students get a Victorian schooling

BBC Bitesize – Who was Queen Victoria?

DKfindout! – Victorian Britain – Victorian Facts

Museum of London – What was life like for children in Victorian London?

Wilderspin National School – Samuel Wilderspin

## Good reads

Title	Author	ISBN
Comparing Past and Present: Going to School	Rebecca Rissman	9781406271546
Info Buzz: Schools	Izzi Howell	9781445164779
Pocket Edition 100 Facts: Victorian Britain	Jeremy Smith	9781786176639
Info Buzz: Queen Victoria	Izzi Howell	9781445159515
Miss Molly's School of Manners	James Maclaine	9781474922463

