

KS2 Activity - The Pen and the Spade



Learning Objectives:

- To make pupils aware of the contrasting experiences of children in Victorian times (gaining an education in the schoolroom or working on the land).
- To show how the choice between these could determine the child's future standard of living/way of life.

Introduction:

The Pen and the Spade provides 2 teacher-led sessions of approximately 45 minutes each:

1. 'Pen' Activity - Using the Victorian Classroom to run a lesson. Pupils experience something of the structure, discipline and morality of a Victorian education. Gaining a good education could be seen as an escape from the drudgery of manual labour.
2. 'Spade' Activity - Object Handling and Practical Field activity to use some of the objects. Pupils are made aware of how children could be involved in agricultural labour and how this might affect their education and hence their future.

Organisation

Organisation of the two sessions will depend upon the size of your group. The Victorian classroom is suitable for up to a maximum of 15 pupils at a time.

Download instructions for running the Victorian Classroom session and the Drill exercises. Drill exercises could be performed by one or both groups during changeover, or at the end of both sessions. Instructions for running the 'Spade' part of the Activity are found on the next sheet.

On completion of both sessions, discuss with pupils whether they would have preferred receiving an education or working in the fields all day!

