

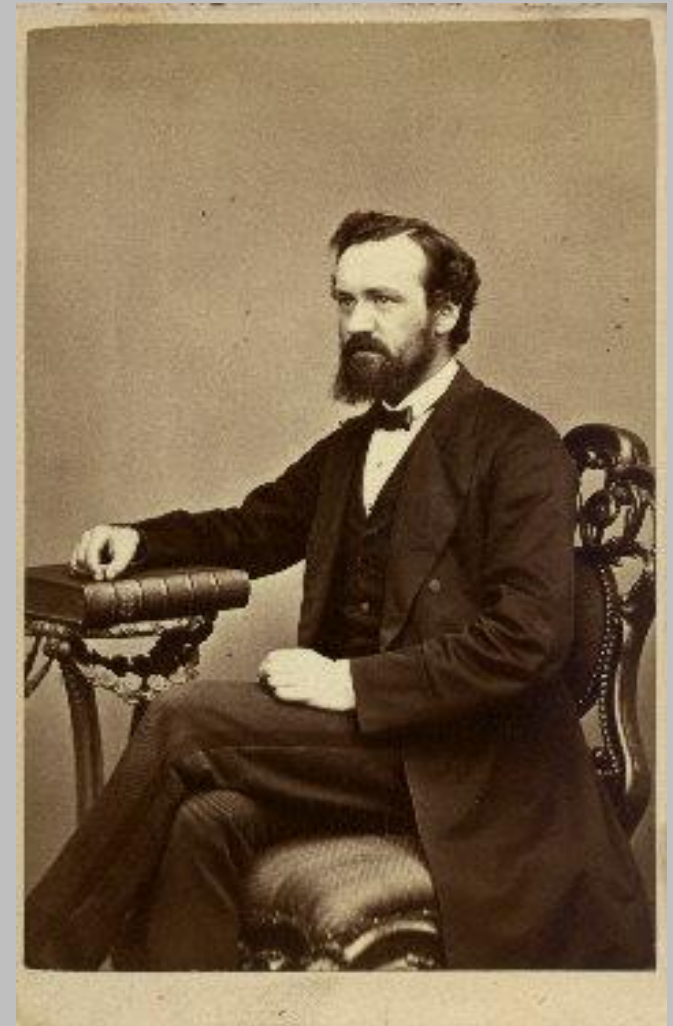
# *Victorian Children*

The differences between  
rich and poor children



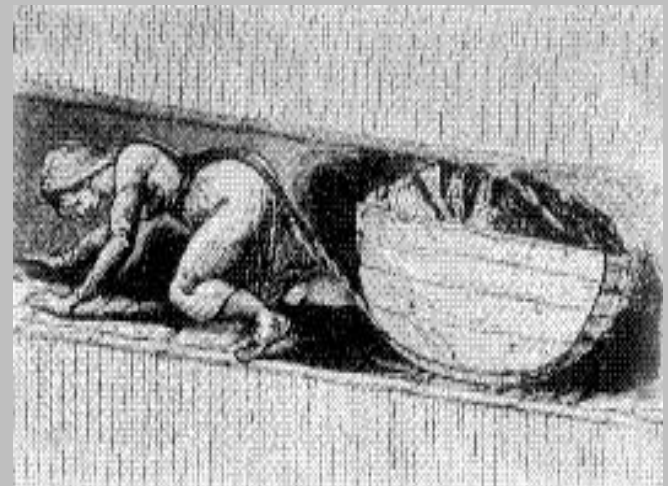
# What did rich children do?

- Children were taught at home by a Tutor or a Governess.
- They were looked after by a Nanny who would wash and dress them and teach them how to behave.
- Only boys were expected to go out to work.
- The girls stayed at home with their mother and were married as soon as possible.



# What did poor children do?

- They went to school and met other children.
- They were sent out to work when very young.
- They worked down coal mines for 12 hours a day.
- Boys went up chimneys to clean them. Some boys got stuck and died.
- They worked in match factories to dip matches into a dangerous chemical called phosphorous.



# Rich families

- Parents only saw their children once a day.
- Children were often frightened of their parents.
- Children were allowed downstairs for an hour before they went to bed.



# Poor families

- Poor children spent time with their families.
- They loved their parents.
- Often got diseases and died when very young.



# How did rich children live?

- Lived in big houses.
- Had servants.
- Wore smart clothes.
- Had lots of food to eat.
- Had expensive toys.



# How did poor children live?

- Wore shabby clothes.
- Lived in one or two rooms.
- Had little to eat.

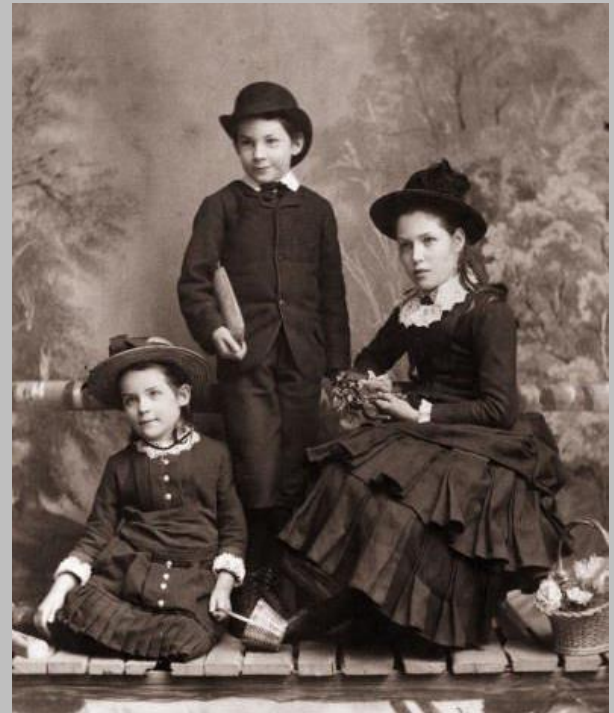


# Decide whether each statement is for the Rich or Poor?

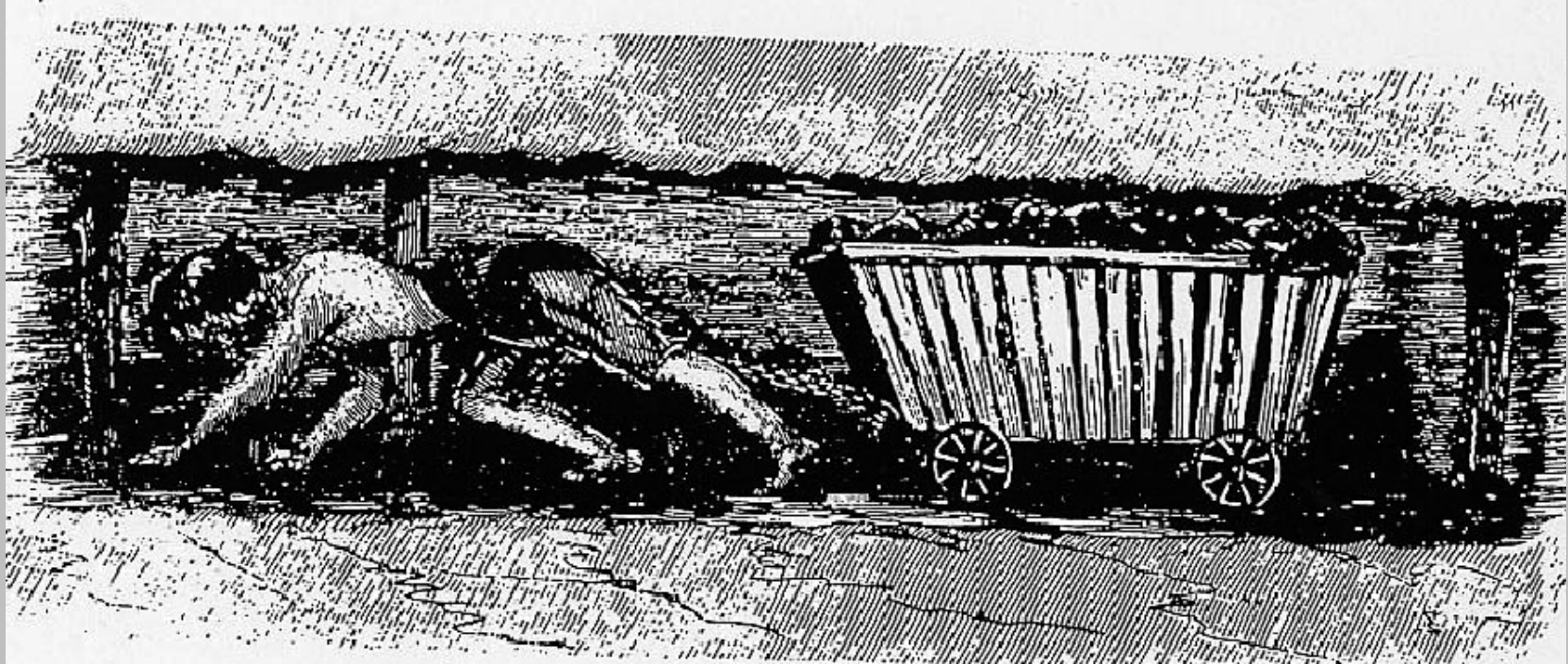
- Were sent out to work when very young.
- Had a governess or a tutor.
- Only saw their parents for a short time each day.
- Went up chimneys to clean them.
- Went to school and met other children.
- Loved their parents.
- Often got diseases and died when very young.
- Had lots of clothes to wear.
- Were polite and respectful to adults.
- Learned how to play the piano and speak Latin.

# Compare and Contrast!

Think about the similarities and differences between these two images!

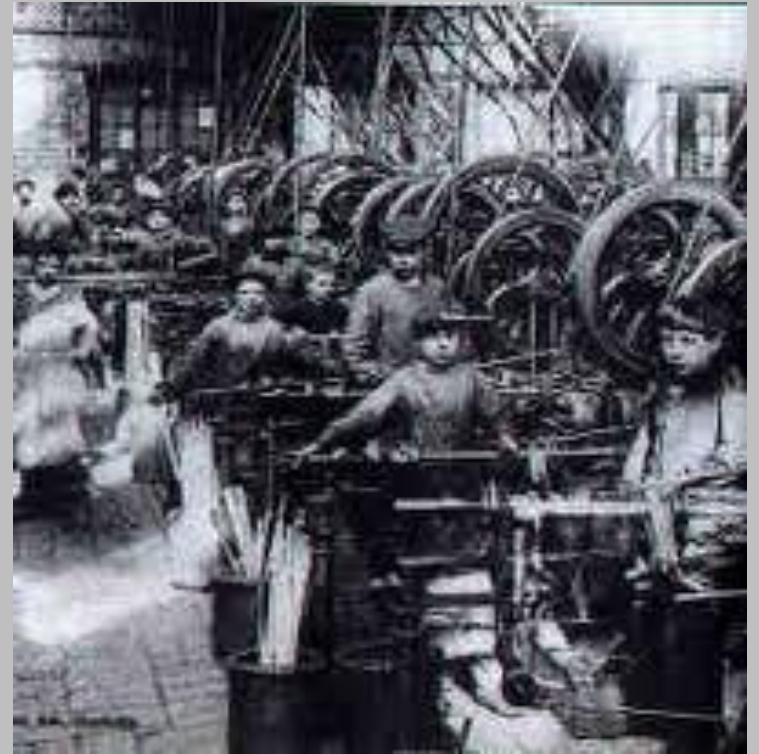


If you were a child from a poor family at the beginning of the Victorian times, you worked and worked and worked.....



Children were often forced to work as soon as they could walk. This was not something new to the Victorian period as children had always been expected to work for hundreds of years. Many were used as cheap labour.

- Children worked very long hours with little breaks and no fresh air.
- They often worked in very dangerous conditions resulting in injuries or even death.
- Very young children were expected to work.
- There was no education for the poor, so it was very unlikely they could get better paid jobs when they were older.
- Children were paid very little because they were younger.



# What kinds of jobs did children do?



Lucky children got apprenticed in a trade but the less lucky ones worked on farms or helped with the spinning. When new types of work appeared with the development of **factories**, it seemed natural to use children for work that adults couldn't do e.g. Crawling underneath machinery or sitting in coal mines to open and close the ventilation doors.



# Chimney Sweeps

- The ideal age for a chimney sweep to begin working was said to be **6 years old**, but sometimes they were used beginning at age 4.
- Child chimney sweeps were required to crawl through chimneys which were only about 18 inches wide. Sometimes their cold-hearted masters would light fires to spur the sweeps on to climb more quickly.
- The child would shimmy up the flue using his back, elbows, and knees. He would use a brush overhead to knock soot loose; the soot would fall down over him. Once the child reached the top, he would slide down and collect the soot pile for his master, who would sell it. The children received no wages.

# Chimney Sweeps

Chimney sweeps would be sent scrambling up inside the chimney to scrape and brush soot away. They came down covered in soot with bleeding elbows and knees.



- Chimneys were usually very narrow and twisted. Children often got stuck or froze with terror in the cramped darkness.
- The work was dangerous and painful. Some boys got stuck and died of suffocation.

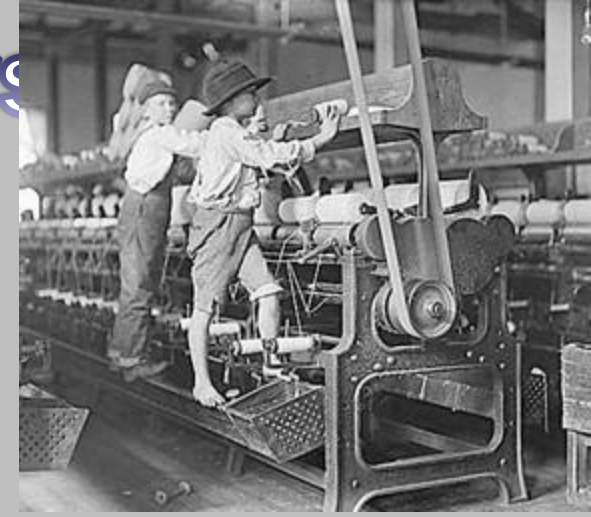
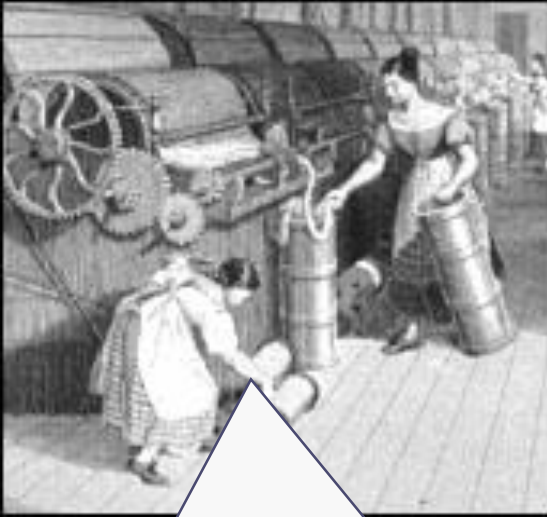
*"I never got stuck myself but some of my friends have and were taken out dead."* **boy aged 8**

- In 1832 the use of boys for sweeping chimneys was forbidden by law, however, boys continued to be forced through the narrow winding passages of chimneys in large houses.

# Factory workers

- Children worked in factories as young as 4-5 years old!
- Children worked long hours and sometimes had to carry out some dangerous jobs working in factories
- They often worked in very dangerous conditions resulting in injuries or even death. Very young children were expected to work.

# Factory Workers



*"I start work promptly at 5am in the morning and work all day till 9pm at night. That's 16 hours! We are not allowed to talk, sit or look out of the window whilst we work. The only day off from work I get is on Sundays, when we have to go to church."*

**Girl aged 9**

**1844 - Factory Act - Stopped children between 8 and 12 from working more than 6 and a half hours a day.**

**1878 - Factory and Workshop Act - Children under 10 were banned from working in factories.**

**In the mills children were made to clean machines while they kept running and there were many accidents. Many children lost fingers in the machinery and some were killed.**





# Street Children

Thousands of children worked and lived on the streets. Many were orphans, others were neglected. They worked very long hours for very little money.

**They sold:**

Bootlaces

Matches

Firewood

Buttons

Flowers



**They also:**

Polished shoes

Ran errands

Swept roads  
where rich  
people walked.

# Trappers - Mine Workers!

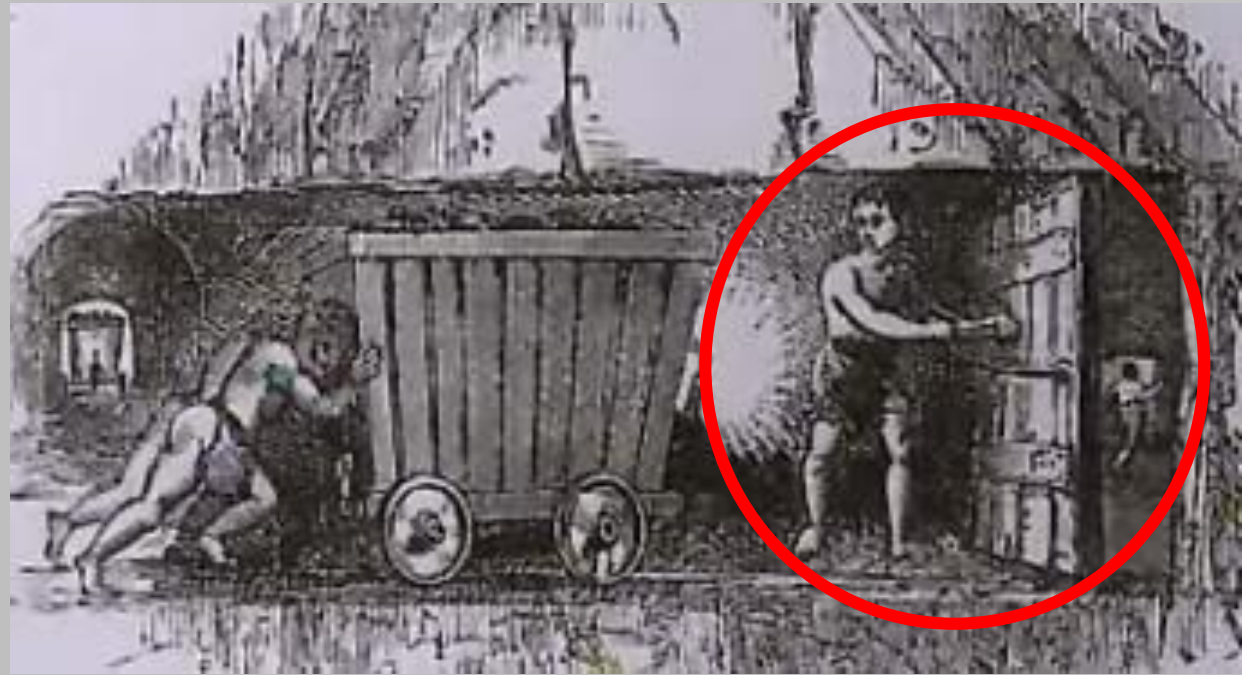
- Most children started work underground when they were around eight years old, but some were as young as five.
- The trapper was often the youngest member of the family working underground. Their job was simple: to open and close the wooden doors (trap doors) that allowed fresh air to flow through the mine. They would usually sit in total darkness for up to twelve hours at a time, waiting to let the coal tub through the door. It was not hard work but it was boring and could be very dangerous. If they fell asleep, the safety of the whole workings could be affected.
- Trappers often sat in a hole hollowed out for them and held in their hands a string which was attached to the door. When they heard the coal wagons coming they had to open the door by pulling the string. They were mostly in the dark because candles were too expensive to be used regularly.
- This was one of the simplest jobs down the mine and did not require much strength, but it was also one of the loneliest jobs and the place where the child sat was often damp and draughty. It must have been like spending twelve hours a day in a dungeon. The children never saw the daylight, except on Sunday.

# Mine Workers

## Trappers

Were children who opened and closed the air doors providing fresh air for the miners.

By keeping the fresh air flowing they prevented the build up of dangerous gases.

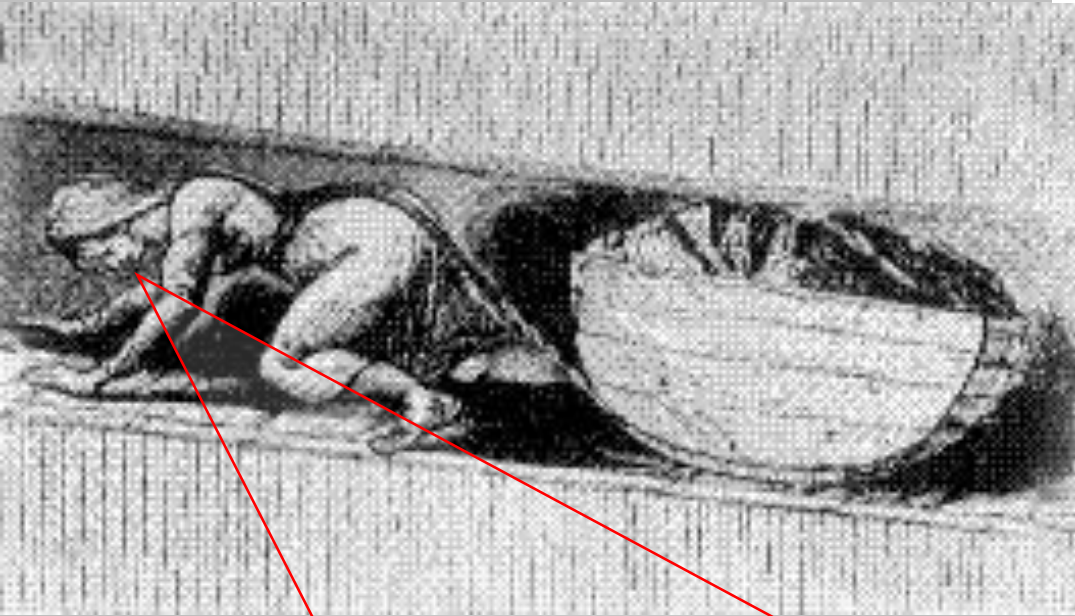


The children would sit in the draft of the doors, cold, damp and very frightened, with little or no light for 12 hours a day.

# Drawers

- A hurrier, also sometimes called a coal drawer or coal thruster, was a child or woman employed by a collier to transport the coal that they had mined. Women would normally get the children to help them because of the difficulty of carrying the coal. Common particularly in the early 19th century, the hurrier pulled a corf (basket or small wagon) full of coal along roadways as small as 0.4 metres (16 in) in height. They would often work 12-hour shifts, making several runs down to the coal face and back to the surface again
- Hurriers would be harnessed to the tub, and thrusters would help hurriers by pushing the tubs of coal from behind with their hands and the tops of their heads. The tubs and the coal could weigh over 600kg, and would have to be moved through roadways which were often only 60-120cm high.

# Mine Workers Drawers



Drawers pulled heavy carts of cut coal to the pits surface with heavy chains around their waists.

*"I have a belt round my waist, and a chain passing between my legs, and I go on my hands and feet. The tunnels are narrow and very wet where I work. My clothes are wet through almost all day long." Girl aged 10*

# Compare and Contrast!

- Think about the jobs that children within the Victorian era had to do.
- Think about the jobs you have to do in 2021.
- Compare and contrast the jobs completed in the Victorian and modern times.
- Think about: ages, expectations, laws in place etc.
- Use the planning sheet to help formulate your ideas!