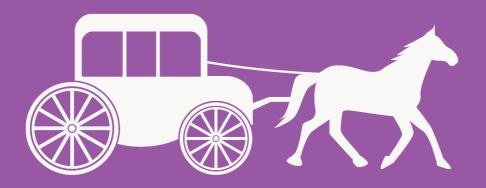


Topic Thinking Skills

Comprehension Activities



Curriculum Readers: 800 - 1300 Total Words
Victorians

1. Measles: Victorian Style

Choose one sentence beginning and note the main point you would make to support your view.

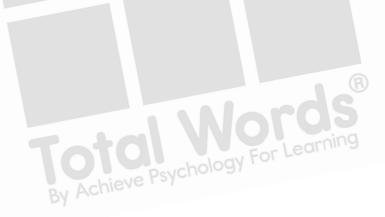
- 1. When I think about the way poor families lived in Victorian times it makes me think that ______ because...
- 2. The things that I found most interesting in reading about measles in Victorian times are...
- 3. When I think about being sick with measles in Victorian times, one of the most shocking things is ______ because...



Measles: Victorian Style

There are no right or wrong answers, but, based on what you have learned from reading about measles in Victorian times, choose 1–2 questions and note your ideas.

- 1. From what you know about the way that this family lived, what do you think would have been the main causes of illnesses?
- 2. When you compare Victorian doctors with doctors today, what do you think would be the main differences?
- **3.** What do you think chemist shops would have looked like in Victorian times compared to now?



Measles: Victorian Style

2. Pollution: Victorian Style

- 1. In my opinion, the most dangerous pollution in Victorian times was...
- **2.** When I compare Victorian pollution to the pollution we have today, I think...
- 3. In my opinion, the main problems with pollution in Victorian times were caused by...



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There are no right or wrong answers, but, based on what you have learned from reading about Victorian pollution, choose 1–2 questions and note your ideas.

- 1. Air pollution was not improved for a long time in big cities. Why do you think that was?
- 2. If you were in charge of a big Victorian city and could make one change to all houses that would reduce pollution, what change would you choose to make?
- 3. How do you think people found out that some chemicals were very dangerous?



Pollution: Victorian Style

3. Bert the Bus Driver

- 1. In my opinion, the streets of London in Victorian times were really interesting places because...
- **2.** Before I read this story, I didn't know...
- 3. I think that being a bus driver in Victorian times would have been because...



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There are no right or wrong answers, but, based on what you have learned from reading about being a bus driver and the streets of London in Victorian times, choose 1–2 questions and note your ideas.

- 1. What are some differences between the streets of Victorian London and life on the streets of big cities today?
- 2. What do you think were the main changes that were made to buses as their design improved?
- 3. How would driving a bus in a big city today compare to Victorian times?
- **4.** With so many horses working in London, what would need to be in the city to accommodate them (e.g. places and professions)?



4. Our Great Expedition to the Great Exhibition

- 1. When I read about the Great Exhibition, it made me realise...
- 2. In my opinion, the amazing thing about the exhibits on display at the Great Exhibition was...
- 3. I think this exhibition deserved to be called 'great' because...



There are no right or wrong answers, but, based on what you have learned from reading about the Great Exhibition, choose 1–2 questions and note your ideas.

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- 1. How do you think the Victorians would have moved the whole building to Penge?
- 2. If there were something like the Great Exhibition today, which up-to-date inventions do you think would be on display?
- 3. If you had invented something remarkable, what would be the benefit of your displaying your invention in a great exhibition and what would be a disadvantage?



5. A Day at the Seaside: Victorian Style

- 1. In my opinion, a day at the seaside in Victorian times would have been ______ because...
- 2. One thing I didn't know about going to the seaside in Victorian times was...
- **3.** I found the description of what a Victorian family did at the seaside interesting because...



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There are no right or wrong answers, but, based on what you have learned from reading about days at the seaside in Victorian times, choose 1–2 questions and note your ideas.

- 1. The law changed to make it illegal to sell ice cream in little glass bowls. What do you think the problem was with selling ice cream in this way?
- 2. How does a Victorian trip to the seaside compare to one today?
- 3. Do you think Mama's concern that swimming in the water would not be healthy was sensible?

