

Victorian Working Life

What the reformer says	
Opinion	Fact
Length of hours The working day for children is far too long.	Some older children work for fourteen hours a day.
Safety Factories are very dangerous places for children to work.	Some children get killed, crippled or badly injured at work.
Pay Children are paid very low wages even though they work very hard.	Some children earn only 5 shillings (25p) a week.
Treatment Factory owners treat children very cruelly.	Children are beaten if they are late for work or if they don't work fast enough.
Health Working in factories causes children to become very sick and unhealthy.	Many factory children die before they are sixteen years old.

Present day working conditions for children still cause much concern. Even though this activity examines the conditions of children working in factories in the Victorian era, it is just as relevant to children working in sweatshops all over the world today.

Suitable for pupils aged 8+

The Learning Outcome will be that pupils will have learned about working conditions in Victorian Britain and will be able to write letters to back their opinions with facts.

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Victorian Working Life

Developed by Steve Cooke
Illustrations by Peter Bennett

Theme: Victorians

Age range: 8+

Context:

Present day working conditions for children still cause much concern. Even though this activity examines the conditions of children working in factories in the Victorian era, it is just as relevant to children working in sweatshops all over the world today.

If you develop your own activities around this theme please share them by sending them to the address below for expanding our library.

Preparation:

Print out the A4 sheets.

If possible, laminate the "baseboards" and cover the pages of the cards with 'clear pvc self adhesive film'. Then cut along the dotted lines to make the cards.

HOW TO PLAY:

The activity has statements from two different perspectives: that of the reformer who believes children are exploited; and that of the factory owner who says that the children are perfectly well treated, for students to examine.

The game can be played in small groups or as a whole class activity.

Each group of students is given a game board and a set of cards. The game board is separated into opinions and facts.

For every opinion there is a fact to back it up.

The students read and discuss the cards and then place them on what they consider the correct place on the game board.

When they have finished the teacher can give them the answer sheet to check their work.

When the students have checked their game board they then progress to the next activity of writing a letter using the template provided. They can write either from the point of view of the factory owner or of the reformer. This gives students the opportunity to use what they have learnt in the context of writing a letter using the essay structure of statement, evidence and example.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will have learned about working conditions in Victorian Britain and will be able to write letters to back their opinions with facts.

If you have found further learning outcomes please share them by emailing collaborate@mantralingua.com

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(You can purchase a professionally printed, sound-enabled version of this activity with pre-cut cards from www.mantralingua.com. Students can use PENpal to record and re-record aurally onto the pages and cards. Recordings can be saved and used for assessment, or shared with other classes and schools via "ShareLINK".)

What the factory owner says	Fact	Opinion	Fact	Opinion	Fact	Opinion		
What the reformer says	Opinion	Fact	Opinion	Fact	Opinion	Fact		
Length of hours	Children under 13 are only allowed to work for nine hours a day.	A good strong child can work all day without any problems.	Some older children work for fourteen hours a day.	The working day for children is far too long.	Many children never have any accidents or injuries.	As long as children are sensible they are perfectly safe at work.	Some children get killed, crippled or badly injured at work.	Factories are very dangerous places for children to work.
Safety	Some children can earn 15 shillings (75p) a week.	Children are very well paid, considering they are only young.	Some children earn only 5 shillings (25p) a week.	Children are paid very low wages even though they work very hard.	Many factory owners give the children food and presents at Christmas.	Factory owners are kind to the children and only punish them if they deserve it.	Children are beaten if they are late for work or if they don't work fast enough.	Factory owners treat children very cruelly.
Pay	Many children in factories are hardly ever ill or sick.	Children who work in factories are just as healthy as other boys and girls.	Many factory children die before they are sixteen years old.	Working in factories causes children to become very sick and unhealthy.	Treatment	Health		

	<p>The working day for children is far too long.</p>	<p>Some older children work for fourteen hours a day.</p>	<p>A good strong child can work all day without any problems.</p>	<p>Children under 13 are only allowed to work for nine hours a day.</p>
	<p>Factories are very dangerous places for children to work.</p>	<p>Some children get killed, crippled or badly injured at work.</p>	<p>As long as children are sensible they are perfectly safe at work.</p>	<p>Many children never have any accidents or injuries.</p>
	<p>Children are paid very low wages even though they work very hard.</p>	<p>Some children earn only 5 shillings (25p) a week.</p>	<p>Children are very well paid, considering they are only young.</p>	<p>Some children can earn 15 shillings (75p) a week.</p>
	<p>Factory owners treat children very cruelly.</p>	<p>Children are beaten if they are late for work or if they don't work fast enough.</p>	<p>Factory owners are kind to the children and only punish them if they deserve it.</p>	<p>Many factory owners give the children food and presents at Christmas.</p>
	<p>Working in factories causes children to become very sick and unhealthy.</p>	<p>Many factory children die before they are sixteen years old.</p>	<p>Children who work in factories are just as healthy as other boys and girls.</p>	<p>Many children in factories are hardly ever ill or sick.</p>

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Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my grave concerns
about
I think it is clear that

My main reason for calling for reform is that
For example,.....and
as a result.....

Furthermore,.....
This is clearly shown by.....
Which means that.....

I know that many factory owner maintain that...
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However, surely nobody can deny that.....
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If.....then.....
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Victorian Working

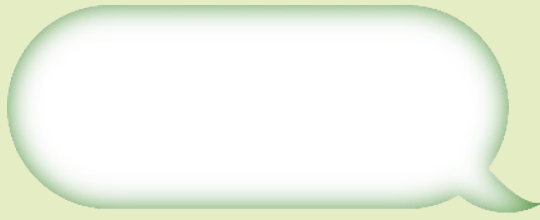


What the reformer says

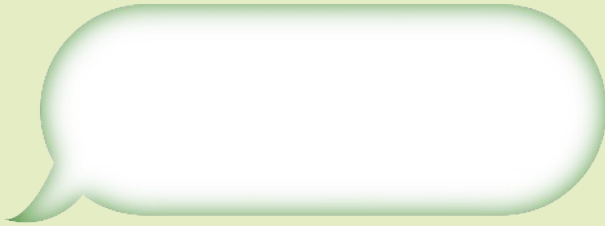
Opinion

Fact

Length of hours



Safety



Pay



Treatment



Health



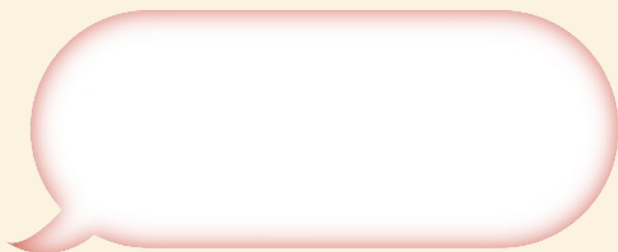
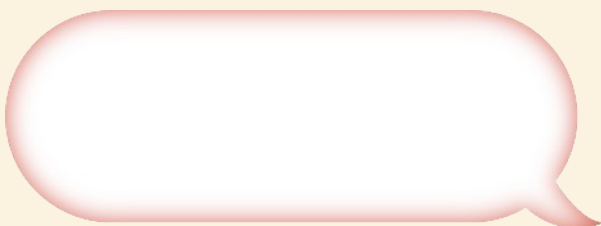
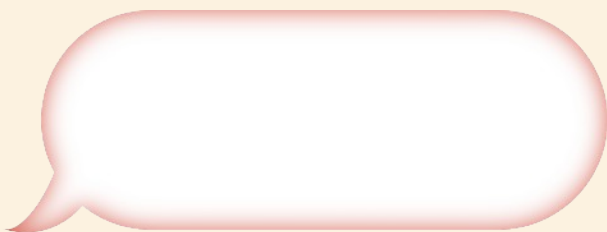
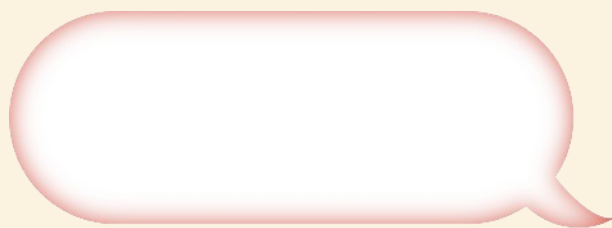
Life - Game Board

What the
factory owner says



Opinion

Fact



Victorian Working

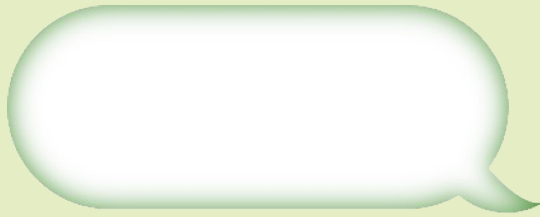


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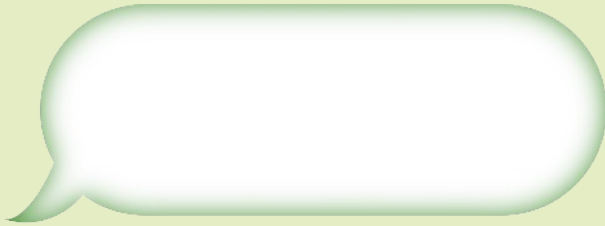
Opinion

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Safety



Pay



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Health



Life - Game Board

What the
factory owner says



Opinion

Fact

