

Victorian schools



Classrooms



In Victorian schools, there were a lot of children in each class. Some classes had 70 or 80 children. Classrooms had bare walls and high windows so the children could not see out. The children sat in rows at wooden desks. The teacher wrote on a blackboard with chalk.



Lessons



Boys and girls sat separately in lessons. Children chanted facts and times tables. The most important lessons were religious studies and reading, writing, and arithmetic. These lessons were called the three Rs. Girls learned needlework and housekeeping skills in the afternoon. Boys learned woodwork or technical drawing.



Equipment



Younger children wrote on slate boards using a slate pencil. Older children wrote with an ink pen. Children had to fill their ink pens from inkwells on their desks. Victorian children used a counting frame called an abacus to help with their arithmetic work.



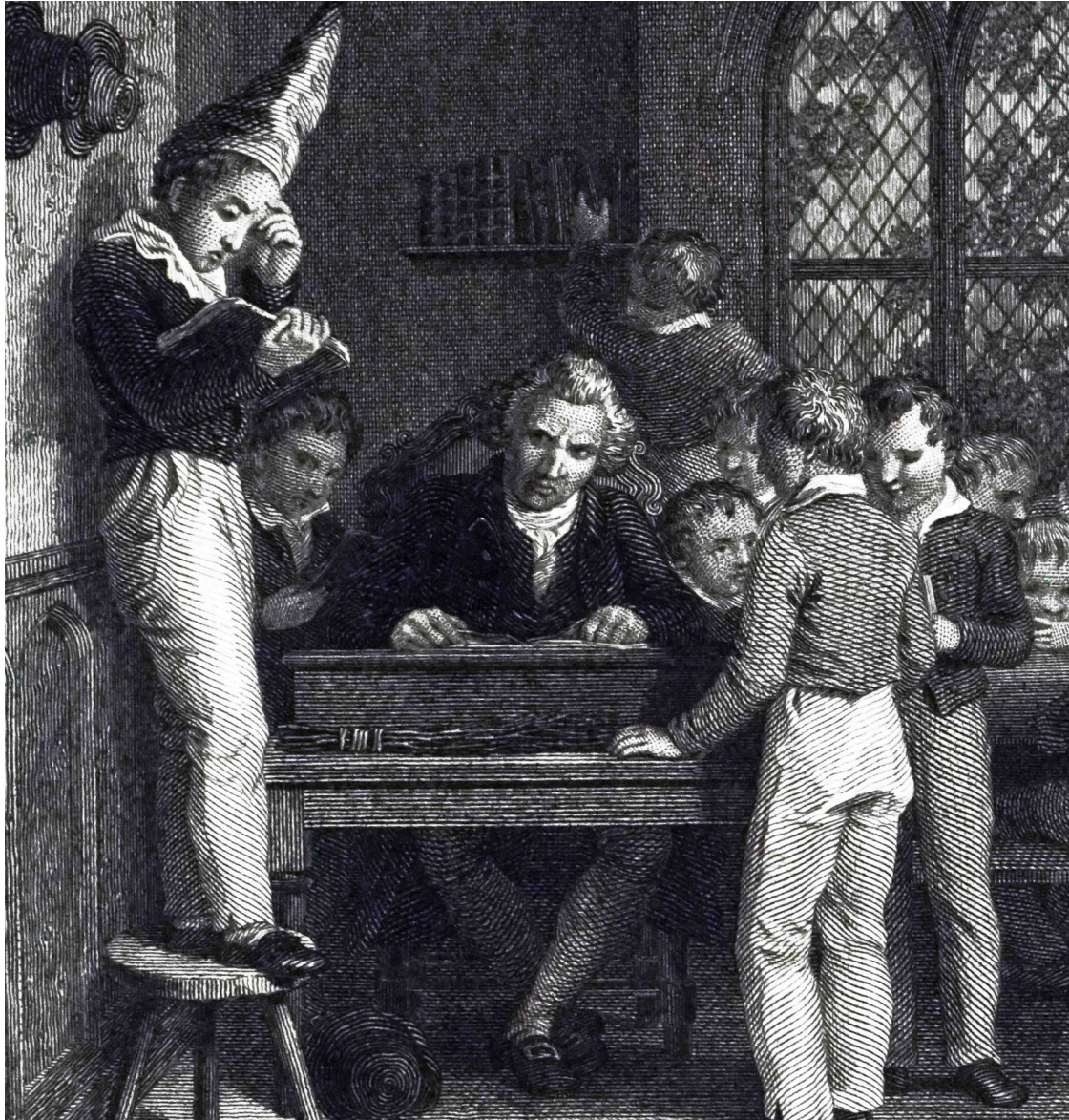
Teachers



Most teachers weren't trained properly in Victorian times. They had to learn how to teach in the classroom with the children. Teachers were very strict. Children had to do as they were told or they would be punished.



Punishment



There were many punishments in Victorian schools. Teachers hit pupils with a cane when they were rude or lazy. Children wore a 'dunce's cap' if they worked slowly. Some children had to write lines if they broke the school rules or told a lie. All punishments were recorded in a punishment book.

School day



The school day started at 9 o'clock in the morning and finished at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. Lunchtime lasted for two hours. Most children went home for lunch. There were no school dinners. Children played with hoops, skipping ropes, and marbles at playtime.

