

Victorian children at work

Look at the picture and read the text about Victorian children in the workplace. For each of the statements in the table below, decide if you think the information is true or false and circle your answer. Underline any clues in the text that help you to decide. One has been done for you.

Life for children in Victorian times was hard and child deaths were common in the workplace. Most children were forced to work extremely long hours for meagre wages. They had no choice because the money was needed to help their families survive. Children were often expected to work 16-hour days in appalling conditions.



Children were useful employees because they were small and could fit into tiny spaces like chimneys and ventilation shafts in mines. They could even crawl under machinery when it was necessary. It was for this reason that children were sent to work almost as soon as they could walk. Children were also much cheaper to employ than adults. This was especially true of the many orphans and street children, who would not be missed if an accident occurred.

Statement	True or false?
1. Victorian workplaces had lots of rules and regulations to ensure that they were safe.	True / <u>False</u>
2. Conditions in Victorian workplaces were so terrible that many children refused to work in them.	True / False
3. Small boys from the age of 5 were sent up chimneys to brush the soot away.	True / False
4. Some factory children worked from 5:00 in the morning until 9:00 at night.	True / False
5. Most factory owners preferred to employ adults rather than children because they were cheaper.	True / False
6. Orphanage children were hired by employers because they could be replaced easily if accidents occurred.	True / False



Remember, evaluation questions have no right or wrong answer - as long as you link your ideas to the information on the page.

Use your personal experience, knowledge and evidence from the text to answer the questions below. Then ask and answer your own evaluation question about the information.

1. Do you think Victorians cared about health and safety? Why do you say that?

2. Do you think the text about Victorian children in the workplace was written simply to inform? Why do you say that?

3. Give an example of the author's attempt to shock the reader. Do you think she is successful? Explain why you think so.

Your evaluation question: _____

Your answer: _____

How did you do?

