

The banner features a collage of historical images: a sunburst on the left, a stoker in a cap and uniform in the center, and a gas lamp on the right. The text 'workshop 4' is in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font, and 'Victorian times at the gasworks' is in a larger, white, lowercase, sans-serif font below it.

workshop 4

Victorian times at the gasworks

teachers' notes

What happens on the tour?

The class will be shown around the gasworks and introduced to the process of making coal gas. They will find out that coal was the raw material used in the process. They will learn about the working conditions in coal mines in Victorian times. In particular, they will learn about the conditions for children and women. They will also learn about the working conditions in the gasworks and see the equipment and facilities.

The class will learn about a number of different types of pollution produced by the process. They will have the opportunity to contrast Victorian attitudes with modern concerns for the environment.

They will learn about the different ways in which consumers used the gas and the benefits it brought to their Victorian lifestyle.

What happens in the workshop?

Pupils will examine a range of historical objects and sources. They will select an activity card, which will require them to draw an historic object and answer a number of related questions.

They will examine sources to gain an understanding of the working conditions for stokers in the gasworks and the job of the lamp lighter.

How does this relate to the Key Stage 2 curriculum?

The world around us:

- To investigate the technology of the people living in Victorian times
- To recognise how their inventions have influenced our world today
- To understand the working conditions in coal mines and the gasworks
- To recognise the difference in attitude to pollution compared to modern concerns
- To recognise the difference in attitude to health and safety compared to modern concerns
- To compare sources of energy used in Victorian times with those used today
- To construct a basic historical narrative describing a Victorian life
- To extract factual information from a range of sources

What skills are involved?

Picture drawing, extracting information, observing, memory, numeracy, communication, making comparisons, making observations, asking and answering questions, communication.

4.1 Victorian times

Victorian times at the gasworks



We use the word Victorian to describe the time when Queen Victoria was on the British throne. Born in 1819, Victoria became Queen in 1837 and ruled until her death in 1901.

Q For how many years did Queen Victoria rule Britain?

Q How many years ago did Queen Victoria's reign end?

At the start of the Victorian period children from poor families did not go to school. Many worked in mines and factories.

Q What jobs did children do in the mines?

Q Why were some children in Victorian times sent out to work by their parents?

Q What might have happened to the children if they did not work hard enough?

Q What were the main dangers for miners working deep underground?

By the end of the Victorian period all children between the age of 5 and 13 had to go to school. They were taught reading, writing, arithmetic, history, geography and physical education.

4.2 sources of energy

Victorian times at the gasworks



We use different sources of energy every day. The main sources of energy we use are coal, oil, gas, petrol/diesel electricity, food and chemical energy.

Q What sources of energy do you use for the following activities?

Use of energy

1. Heating your home
2. Lighting your bedroom
3. Cooking your dinner
4. Washing clothes
5. Washing yourself
6. Getting to school
7. Watching TV
8. Playing sports

Source of energy

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

In Victorian times the sources of energy people used were sometimes quite different. What source of energy would have been used for the following activities in Victorian times? There may be more than one answer.

Q Can you give examples?

Use of energy

1. Heating their home
2. Lighting their home
3. Cooking dinner
4. Washing clothes
5. Washing themselves
6. Getting to school
7. Reading a book at night
8. Playing sports

Source of energy

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

4.3 inventions

Victorian times at the gasworks



The Victorian period was a time of rapid change. Inventors found ways of making new machines and new processes that affected everyone's lives.

The telephone was a new method of communication, the first photographs were taken, typewriters clattered away in offices and at night, towns glowed with new lights. These are just a few of the Victorian inventions.



Telephone



Camera



Typewriter



Gaslight

Find out about one of the inventions made in the Victorian period. Make a fact file with the information you find.

TIP: The library or Internet is a good place to start.

Q What year was it invented? _____

Q Who invented it? _____

Q What did it do? _____

Q Do we still use the invention today? _____

Q How has it changed or how has the way we use it changed? _____

Q Are there any other interesting facts about the invention? _____

4.5 Victorian quiz

Victorian times at the gasworks



Q What was the gas made at the gasworks first used for?

Q Who lived at the gasworks?

Q What did the gasworks sometime smell of?

Q How was the coal moved from the harbour to the gasworks?

Q What did the lamp lighters carry with them to do their job?

Q What were the stokers shoes made of?

Q How many hours a day did the gasworks make gas?
