

# ANSWERS

The children are being encouraged to use the collection to find the answers to the questions. In gallery 1, the museum introduces three key themes of childhood; **life, learn and play.**

## Gallery 1

### Learn

**When was school made compulsory for children in Scotland?** 1872.

**Did children go to school before that date?** Yes, but because it wasn't compulsory many did not attend and attendance was irregular. Many children could not read or write.

**How was life for children different after school became compulsory?** All children from 5- 13 years had to go to school. The standard of education improved.

**What was school like for children in the Victorian era?** Schools were often a harsh environment – obedience was strictly enforced. Children were expected to learn by repetition, even if they did not understand what they were being taught.

**Were boys and girls treated the same? How does that make you feel?** No, they were taught different subjects and there was an emphasis on domestic training for girls.

**What subjects did they teach in school?** Reading, writing and arithmetic (the 'three Rs'). Religion. PE. Needlework (girls) and woodwork (boys).

### Find the TAWSE

**Why did they have these in school and using prior knowledge (what you have read) what were they for?**

To maintain discipline – teachers would strike children across their hands and legs for misbehaving or for answering incorrectly.

**What are they made from?** Leather.

**Do you think this would be a good method for punishment? Why?**

**Why do you think they stopped using this type of punishment in school?**

**Can you find out when this was banned?** In the 1980s. Use of the Lochgelly tawse and all forms of corporal punishment was banned in all state schools in 1987.

**Can you find evidence of other things that changed in childhood in gallery?** School, clothing, less illness, priorities - since the 1950s children have been at the centre of family life.

**What were children told to be in Victorian times?** 'Little children should be seen and not heard'

**Do you think it was nice to be a child during the Victorian period – give reasons for your answer?**

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## Gallery 2

Gallery 2 has a large collection of toys- to concentrate on are the zoetropes, thaumatropes, toy theatres and doll houses.

### Play

**What was the other name for zoetrope?**

'Wheel of Life'

**Why was this a popular Victorian toy?**

Victorians were interested in moving images and many of the toys in this section reflect that.

**Have a go at the zoetrope on display – spin slowly and look through the slits. What is the story?**

**Find number 12. What is this toy and how does it work?**

It is a thaumatrope. You spin the image of the bird and it makes it look as though the bird is in the cage.

**What are the images you can see on the green wall – what images do you think are on the reverse sides?**

Horse, lion and bird cage.

**When was this thaumatrope made?**

1825.

**And how much would it cost to buy?**

3 shillings.

**Was that an expensive toy in the Victorian period?**

It was quite expensive.

**Who played with toys like this?**

Wealthy upper class children and adults.

**How are the zoetrope and thaumatrope are similar?**

They are interested in moving images.

**Find the toy theatres. Look closely at the theatres on display. When were these toys most popular?**

During the early Victorian period.

**Which famous author, from Edinburgh, loved toy theatres?**

Robert Louis Stevenson

**Which Prime Minister played with toy theatres?**

Sir Winston Churchill

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## Gallery 3

Gallery 3 has a large collection of dolls.

### Play

**Can you find the doll which is dressed as Queen Victoria?**

There is a photograph of Victoria next to the doll.

**What date was her Golden Jubilee?**

1887.

**Why do you think that dolls dressed as Queen Victoria were made?**

Queen Victoria was a very popular queen. It would have been very exciting to own a doll such as this one.

**Are there any other dolls in this gallery from the Victorian era?**

Yes - there are several.

(1837- 1901)

**What are these dolls made from?**

Some, like the Queen Victoria doll, were made with soft material bodies and wax heads. Others are made with wood, paper mache, bone, shoes - a huge variety of materials.

**What kind of children would play with these dolls?**

The shoe doll and bone doll are examples of toys for children who came from lower poorer families.

**Looking in the display cases in this gallery what other things can you find that go with the dolls?**

Furniture, beds, dressers, tea chests, bikes etc.

**What other things can you learn from this gallery about the Victorians?**

The automata in this gallery range in date from 1870s-1900s. Automata toys use a clockwork mechanism.

These toys all have various moving sequences. For example; The bunny slowly pops up, waggles his ears and then pops in again.

**A clockwork device is mechanical and has these key components:**

- A key you wind to add energy
- A spiral spring to store this energy
- A set of gears (these release the energy and control the speed and force)
- A mechanism the gears drive which make the toy work.

Toys like this are an example of advances in technology and invention during the Victorian era.

### Questions

**Look at these toys - how do they move?**

**What action do you think each toy performs?**

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## Gallery 4

Gallery 4 has a collection of hobbies and games.

### Play

**Which books were available in the Victorian period?**

Grimm's Fairy Tales, Hans Anderson's, Wonderful Stories for Children, Lewis Carroll's Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.

**Who would have had books like this?**

More wealthy families – books were a luxury.

**Who wrote during the Victorian period but didn't have anything published until 1902?**

Beatrix Potter.

**What was her first book called?**

The Tale of Peter Rabbit.

**Which game became a 'craze' during the Victorian era?**

Solitaire.

**Can you find any other popular Victorian games or toys?**

There are many in the various display cases (including; cup and ball, spinning tops, gird and cleeks, skipping ropes etc).

**Looking at the games in these display cases - what were most of the toys made from?**

Wood, metal, string and metal .

**Can you find a picture of Queen Victoria? What is it?**

The Phoenix Magazine (1897). The magazine was intended to circulate amongst readers' contributors, each keeping the magazine for a maximum of 6 days.

**There are hobbies shown in this gallery which were gender specific.**

**Can you make a list of 'girl' hobbies and 'boy' hobbies?**

Needlework for girls and woodwork for boys.

**What do you think about the different types of hobbies for boys and girls?**

**Are there hobbies now which are gender specific?**

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## Gallery 5

Shows a street scene, an old classroom, a nursery and a fancy dress display.

**Please note some of the items in the classroom are from after the Victorian era, however the display is still indicative of a Victorian classroom.**

### The classroom

**In what way is this classroom like your classroom? How is it different?**

Individual desks, blackboard, equipment, teacher's desk, the lessons which are visible, the tawse and the map.

**What can you learn about Victorian schools from this classroom?**

**Can you list any toys, games or other things you can see that you have seen in previous galleries?**

Tawse, diabalo, gird and cleek.

### Street scene

**Look closely at the clothes worn by children.**

**Can you identify how many of the children are girls and how many are boys?**

3 of each

**Is there something about the way children dressed that was surprising to you? What?**

Some of the boys look like they are girls - they are wearing dresses and look similar.

**Do you know why clothes were like this?**

(read the folder to find the answers). It wasn't until the 1920s that this tradition was phased out. 'Breeching' was a rite of passage for boys and generally happened between 4 and 8 years old. This was the process of boys graduating from dresses to trousers. This tradition could have come about because it made potty training easier

- there were no easy poppers or zips back then!

**What do you think the children are doing in this scene?**

Opposite the street, you will see a shoe shop.

**How do the shoes compare to the shoes you wear?**

They are smaller. Some are just fabric and look very delicate.

**What other things are available to buy in this shop?**

Bags, purses and both, long and short gloves.

### The nurse scene

**What caused adults to change clothing styles for children?**

The change in styling of children's clothing reflected changes in education- clothes needed to become more practical. Girls as well as boys were expected to take part in sports and gymnastics.

**What date did this change start?**

In the 1870s a group of adults wanted more relaxed clothing for kids but this was a small number of people, however, by the 1900s clothing moved away from copying adult styles and moved towards more relaxed clothing which gave children more movement and freedom.

### Fancy dress

**Did children dress up in fancy dress during the Victorian period?**

Yes.

**Why was this popular?**

Children's fancy dress parties were made popular by Queen Victoria. She gave Prince Albert a Fancy Dress Children's Ball at Buckingham Palace in 1859.