

Children in Victorian times



Victoria was the Queen of England from
1837 to 1901



The children's life in the early 19th century

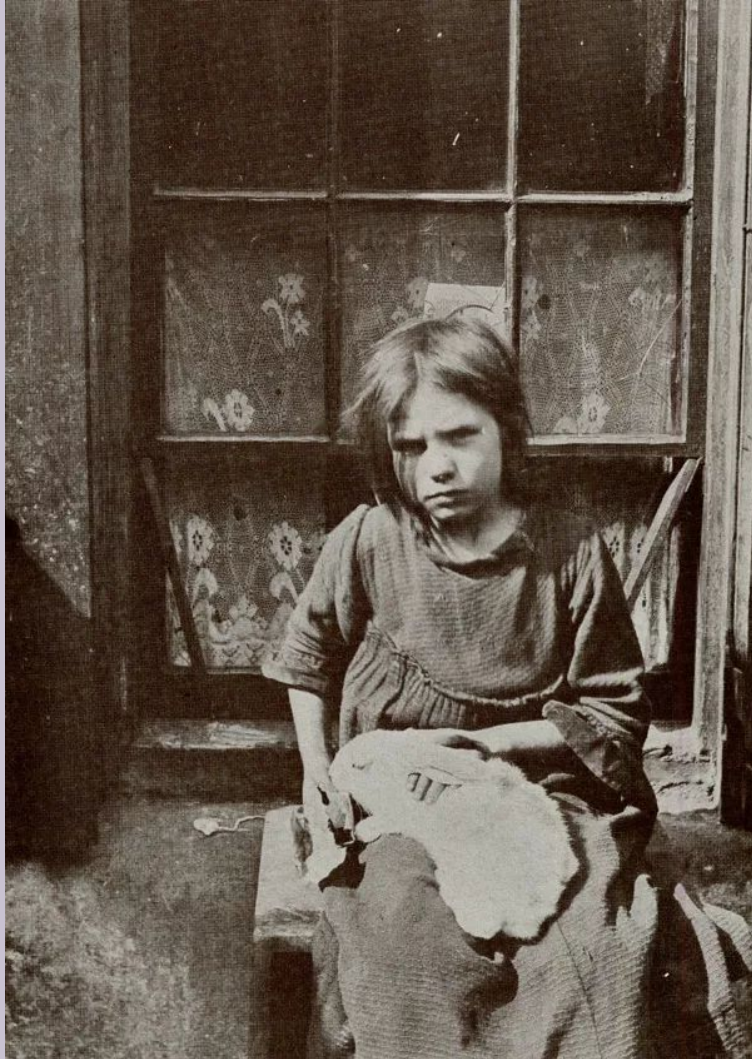
- The children didn't use to have any rights
- They used to work hard to feed their families
- They used to have nobody to defense them from cruel adults

Poor Victorian children

For many years, the growth of English industry was due to the cruel exploitation of the labor of not only adult workers, but also hundreds of thousands of children. Poor children worked from the age of five to feed themselves and their families.



Poor children



chimney sweep



Chimney sweeps

The most famous children's profession of the 19th century is, of course, the chimney sweep. The houses were then heated predominantly with coal. When the fuel is burned, soot is released, which partially settles on the pipe walls. In order for the fireplaces to work efficiently, not to smoke, the pipes had to be cleaned from time to time. But the chimney is not a football field, it was often very narrow. Therefore, to clean the pipes required or special equipment, or chimney sweeps of small stature. Children, in other words. Well, since children were cheaper than new technologies, the British preferred to use them.

As an apprentice, chimney sweeps were usually given to orphaned boys as young as 4 years old - the less the better. Orphanage orphanages in this way wanted to “equip the future” of their pupils. In addition, it was legitimate to force stragglers to this work. The owner of a small apprentice undertook to dress him, feed him and teach him skills. Theoretically, the apprentice could have served as an assistant chimney sweep, but most of the boys, when their height did not allow to climb into the pipes, were forced to look for another job. And some died at a young age, because the profession of a chimney sweep was associated with serious risk.

Cotton factories



Hopeless need forced parents to send their children to factory hard labor. Children of seven, six and even five years worked in the factories. Work began at half past five in the morning and lasted until 8–9 in the evening, that is, 14–15 hours a day. In the days of industrial fever, when the demand for goods increased, the working day was still lengthened. There were cases when work began at 3 o'clock in the morning and ended at 10 o'clock in the evening. With difficulty, the parents of their children, exhausted by overwork, raised in the mornings. It was impossible to be late, for this the overseers brutally beat the young workers.

During the whole working day the children were at the cars. Sit strictly forbidden. It was impossible to talk, to be distracted from work.

Coal mines



Coal mines

Women and children often worked in the mines, for 12 or more hours. In some mines they were required to lift baskets of coal to the surface, in others to pull a truck loaded with coal behind them, which was tied to the waist with a chain. To do this, you had to move on all fours. Children often pulled trolleys on a par with adults, or opened the shutter, so that the trolleys could pass.

Child labor was not only used in England. So it was in France, in Germany, Russia, USA, Japan and in other countries.

Lord Shaftesbury helped
to stop adults from using
young children at work.
He started free schools for
poor children.

Victorian school

