

Work: Activity - Children at Work

TEACHERS' NOTES

Objectives

- Discover the types of work performed by children in Victorian times
- Appreciate why there has been change in children's working conditions and practices
- Develop children's research skills in using historical sources, in particular photographs and advertisements, to learn about jobs done by Victorian children

Cross-curricular Links

- Literacy

Sources



Source 1. Boy pushing a hand cart, High Street, Bognor Regis, c1850



Source 2. Fishermen and boys on Worthing Beach, c1890



Source 3. Staff outside the Post Office, South Street, Chichester c1900



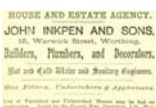
Source 4. Gathering water from a pump, Warwick Street, Worthing, 1850



Source 5. Tables of Working Children created from information recorded in the 1851 Census of Worthing.



Source 6. Advertisement for W. Hardham, Warwick Street, from *The Worthing Directory*, Kirshaw, 1884



Source 7. Advertisement for John Inkpen and Sons, Warwick Street, from *The Worthing Directory*, Kirshaw, 1884

Work: Activity - Children at Work

TEACHERS' NOTES



Source 8. Advertisement for W. Walter and Sons, Montague Street, from *The Worthing Directory*, Kirshaw, 1884



Source 9. Advertisement for Brunswick Hotel, West Worthing, from *The Worthing Directory*, Kirshaw, 1884



Source 10. Farm workers shearing sheep at Saddlescombe, 1890



Source 11. Farm workers haymaking, Steyning, c1900



Source 12. Women and children help with the harvest, c1846



Source 13. Sheep driving at Findon, c1900



Source 14. Chasing cows, Arundel, Engraving, c1850



Source 15. Children gather blackberries in a country lane, c1855

Work: Activity - Children at Work

TEACHERS' NOTES

Sources 1-9 show jobs associated with the town

Sources 1-3

Source 1 shows an errand boy, delivering goods in a handcart

Source 2 shows two boys on the fishing boat

Source 3 shows two post boys or telegram boys on the right, and a young post office worker in the doorway

Source 4

The girls and the boy are helping to fetch water from a public pump, probably to take home.

Some children, as in this picture, had chores to do at home. Not all jobs for children were paid.

Source 5

These tables contain information from the 1851 Census of Worthing and list working children in Worthing between 10-13 years of age, and the jobs that they did.

Note that although most of the jobs are 'town-based' there are also several agricultural labourers listed as there were farms very close to the town centre.

Sources 6-9

These advertisements are all taken from 'Kirshaw's 'Worthing Directory' for 1884, and indicate some of the jobs that would be available to children leaving school at the age of 11 to 13.

Source 7: W. Hardham, Warwick Street: Bread, Bakers, Confectioners
DELIVERY BOY, SHOP ASSISTANT

Source 8: John Inkpen and Sons, Warwick Street: Builders, Plumbers and Decorators
APPRENTICE, BRICKLAYER'S LABOURER

Source 9: W. Walter and Sons, Montague Street: Drapers, Milliners and Outfitters
SHOP ASSISTANT, CLERK

Source 10: Brunswick Hotel, West Worthing
CHAMBERMAID, INN SERVANT, ERRAND BOY, PORTER

Sources 10-15 show jobs associated with the countryside

Source 10

This photograph shows men shearing sheep. The boy standing second left holding a pot is a "tar-boy". If one of the shearers cut the sheep's skin, he would call for the tar-boy and dab tar from the pot onto the cut to prevent infection.

Work: Activity - Children at Work

TEACHERS' NOTES

Source 11

This photograph shows farm workers with pitchforks, and a hay wagon piled high at haymaking time. Although it is not clear if the children in the picture are actually working, we do know from school log books that children often stayed away from school to help their parents at harvest time in the late summer (see Schooling 1a-Absenteeism).

Source 12

This painting also shows people working at haymaking, loading sheaves onto a wagon. The figure on the left appears to be a child. Note that two of the other three workers are women.

Source 13

The boys in the photograph are herding sheep along a country road. The boy on the left is using a stick to guide and drive sheep through the road. Sheep-rearing was an important activity in the Downs.

Source 14

The boy in the engraving is looking after cows, preventing them from straying or damaging crops.

Source 15

The children in the painting are picking blackberries at the end of the summer season. This sort of work might not have been paid employment, but could have been to help supplement the family food supply.