

INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ



VICTORIAN SCHOOLS

In the first part of the nineteenth century, a lot of children from poor families in England didn't attend school. This was because they used to work. They helped their parents earn money. In 1870, however, a new law said that children between the ages of five and thirteen must go to school.

Schools in those days weren't much fun. Pupils often used to walk a long way to get to school because transport wasn't very good. The weather was cold and wet in winter, and poor children didn't have good shoes or warm clothes. Schools didn't always have heating. This meant it was very cold in the classrooms. Pupils were often absent because they were ill.

Lessons used to be very different in those days. Pupils learned to recite everything like parrots. They studied subjects like Maths and English, and they learned how to read and write. But they also learned how to stand, sit and walk properly. They used to put books on their heads to practise walking. Girls learned how to sew and make clothes, and boys did PE.

Teachers were very strict and they used to punish pupils a lot. When pupils didn't do their homework, or they weren't polite or well-behaved, their teachers used to hit them with a cane. Sometimes the teacher told naughty pupils to stand at the front of the class for the whole lesson and to wear a dunce's cap*. This was a hat with the letter D on it. They also punished pupils when they made mistakes in dictation.

The next time you complain about school, remember that school life was much harder in the past.

* dunce = stupid person

1. Are these statements true(T) or false(F)?

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. In the beginning of the 19 century children had to go to school like children today. | T / F |
| 2. Children from poor families had to work. | T / F |
| 3. Children used to have only good shoes. | T / F |
| 4. All children had PE lessons at school. | T / F |
| 5. The best pupils could sometimes wear a dunce's cap | T / F |
| 6. Teachers punished children at schools very often. | T / F |
| 7. Children had to learn everything like parrots. | T / F |
| 8. Schools were much better place than today. | T / F |

2. Write synonyms to underlined words

Choose the words from the box

period	destitute	ill-mannered	stick
stern	missing	right	courteous

- | | |
|-------------|-------|
| 1. absent | _____ |
| 2. lessons | _____ |
| 3. properly | _____ |
| 4. strict | _____ |
| 5. polite | _____ |
| 6. cane | _____ |
| 7. naughty | _____ |
| 8. poor | _____ |

3. Compare schools in the first part of the 19 century and today. Write five differences.

1. -----
2. -----
3. -----

4. -----
5. -----