

Baker Street *Elementary*

PRESENTS
"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"



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THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON
104 -- VICTORIAN SCHOOLS -- FEBRUARY, 2022



WELCOME TO TOPIC # 104... TODAY, WE WILL BE
DISCUSSING VICTORIAN SCHOOLS...



*AS WITH SOCIETY AND CLOTHING, SCHOOLING
FOR VICTORIAN CHILDREN WAS VERY MUCH
DIVIDED ALONG FINANCIAL LINES.*



ALTHOUGH RECEIVING AN EDUCATION WAS NOT MANDATORY UNTIL THE END OF THE 1800'S, EXCEPT FOR THE VERY POOR THE MAJORITY OF CHILDREN HAD SOME SORT OF LEARNING, IF ONLY TO READ AND WRITE THEIR NAME.





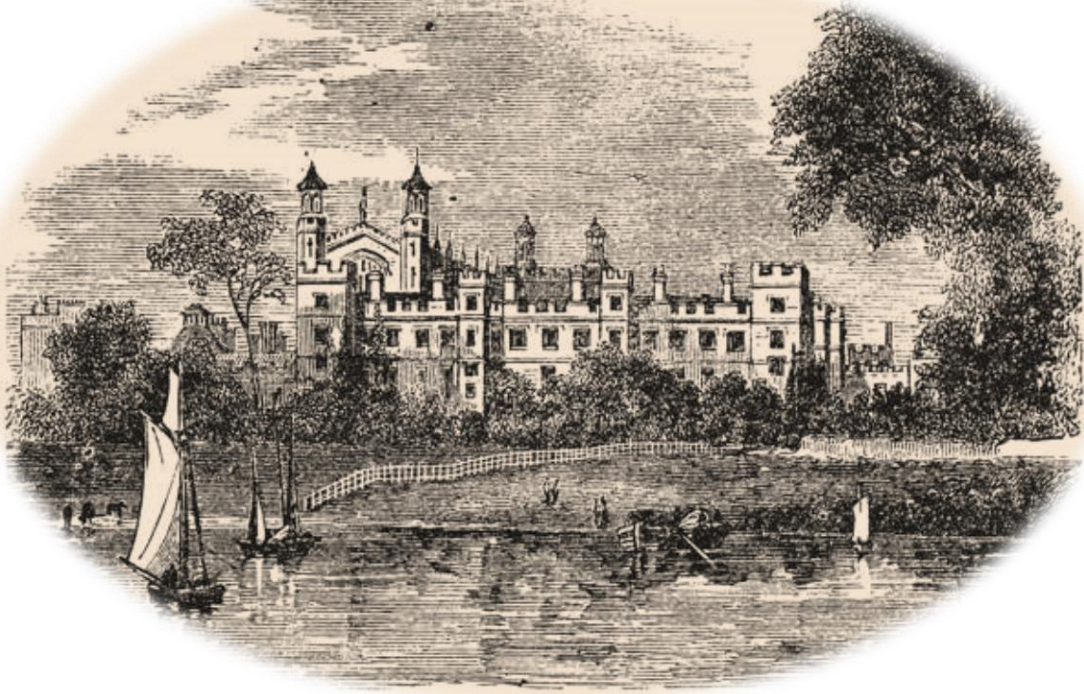
CHILDREN FROM WEALTHY FAMILIES WOULD BE TAUGHT IN THE HOME, RATHER THAN ATTENDING A VICTORIAN SCHOOL.



NANNIES WOULD OFTEN START THE LEARNING PROCESS, BUT WHEN THE CHILD REACHED SIX, A GOVERNESS WOULD BE ADDED TO THE HOUSEHOLD STAFF.



**AT THE AGE OF TEN, SONS WERE SENT AWAY TO
PUBLIC BOARDING SCHOOLS LIKE ETON OR RUGBY...
BOYS WOULD OFTEN NOT SEE THEIR FAMILIES
UNTIL THE END OF TERM.**



GREEK AND LATIN WERE PART OF THE CURRICULUM AND GAMES OF RUGBY AND CRICKET WERE MEANT TO BUILD CHARACTER.



DAUGHTERS WOULD CONTINUE THEIR LEARNING AT HOME... SINGING, PLAYING THE PIANO, AND SEWING WERE THE MAIN SUBJECTS COVERED, HOWEVER, SOME GIRLS WOULD BE TUTORED IN FRENCH.



POORER FAMILIES WOULD SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO VICTORIAN SCHOOLS IF THEY COULD AFFORD THE FEES... IF MONEY WAS A PROBLEM, THERE WERE CHARITY SCHOOLS. SCHOOLS WERE NOT PLEASANT PLACES.



OFTEN WINDOWS WERE BUILT HIGH, SO THE CHILDREN DID NOT SPEND THEIR TIME LOOKING OUT... BECAUSE OF THE HIGH WINDOWS, FRESH AIR WAS A PROBLEM.



**WITH SEVERAL DIFFERENT GRADES BEING TAUGHT
IN ONE AREA, VICTORIAN SCHOOLS COULD BE
CROWDED, AND VERY NOISY.**





BEFORE 1850, IT WAS COMMON TO SEE ONE TEACHER FOR 100 PUPILS... BECAUSE STUDENTS WERE GREAT IN NUMBER, DISCIPLINE WAS STRONGLY ENFORCED.



**BECAUSE OF THE PUPIL COUNT, IT WAS NECESSARY
FOR THE TEACHER TO QUICKLY FIND 'MONITORS'
TO HELP TEACH.**



THESE MONITORS WOULD BE CHOSEN FROM PUPILS WHO SHOWED A GRASP OF THE SUBJECT MATTER AND COULD THEN BE RELIED UPON TO TEACH THEIR FELLOW STUDENTS.



George Gandy in School

FROM 9:00 AM TO NOON, AND THEN FROM 2:00 TO 5:00 PM, THE THREE R'S - READING, WRITING, AND ARITHMETIC, WERE THE SUBJECTS FOCUSED UPON IN SCHOOL.



SLATES WERE USED INSTEAD OF PAPER,
ALTHOUGH PEN AND INK WERE USED IN
COPYBOOKS TO LEARN HANDWRITING.





FOR THE TWO HOUR PERIOD BETWEEN NOON AND 2:00, IT WAS COMMON FOR STUDENTS TO GO HOME FOR LUNCH.



**CHILDREN FROM RURAL AREAS WHO COULD HAVE
LONG DISTANCES TO WALK, STAYED AND ATE
AT SCHOOL.**



**TIME WAS THEN SPENT ON THE PLAYGROUND
PLAYING WITH TOYS SUCH AS TOPS, OR PLAYING
GAMES LIKE BLINDMAN'S BLUFF OR HIDE AND SEEK.**





**AT FIRST, THE BIBLE WAS THE TEXTBOOK
FOR LEARNING HOW TO READ.**



QUICKLY REALIZING THAT THE WORDS WERE TOO COMPLICATED FOR BEGINNING READERS HOWEVER IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE VICTORIAN SCHOOLS BEGAN TO USE MORAL TALES INSTEAD.



IT WAS COMMON PRACTICE TO HUMILIATE STUDENTS WHOSE WORK WAS SUB-STANDARD, OR NOT COMPLETED... THE DUNCE'S CAP WOULD BE PLACED UPON A PUPIL'S HEAD IF THE TEACHER DIDN'T FEEL THEY WERE LEARNING FAST ENOUGH.



*THE CHILD WOULD THEN BE MADE TO STAND
WITHIN FULL VIEW OF THE CLASSROOM FOR A
PERIOD OF TIME.*



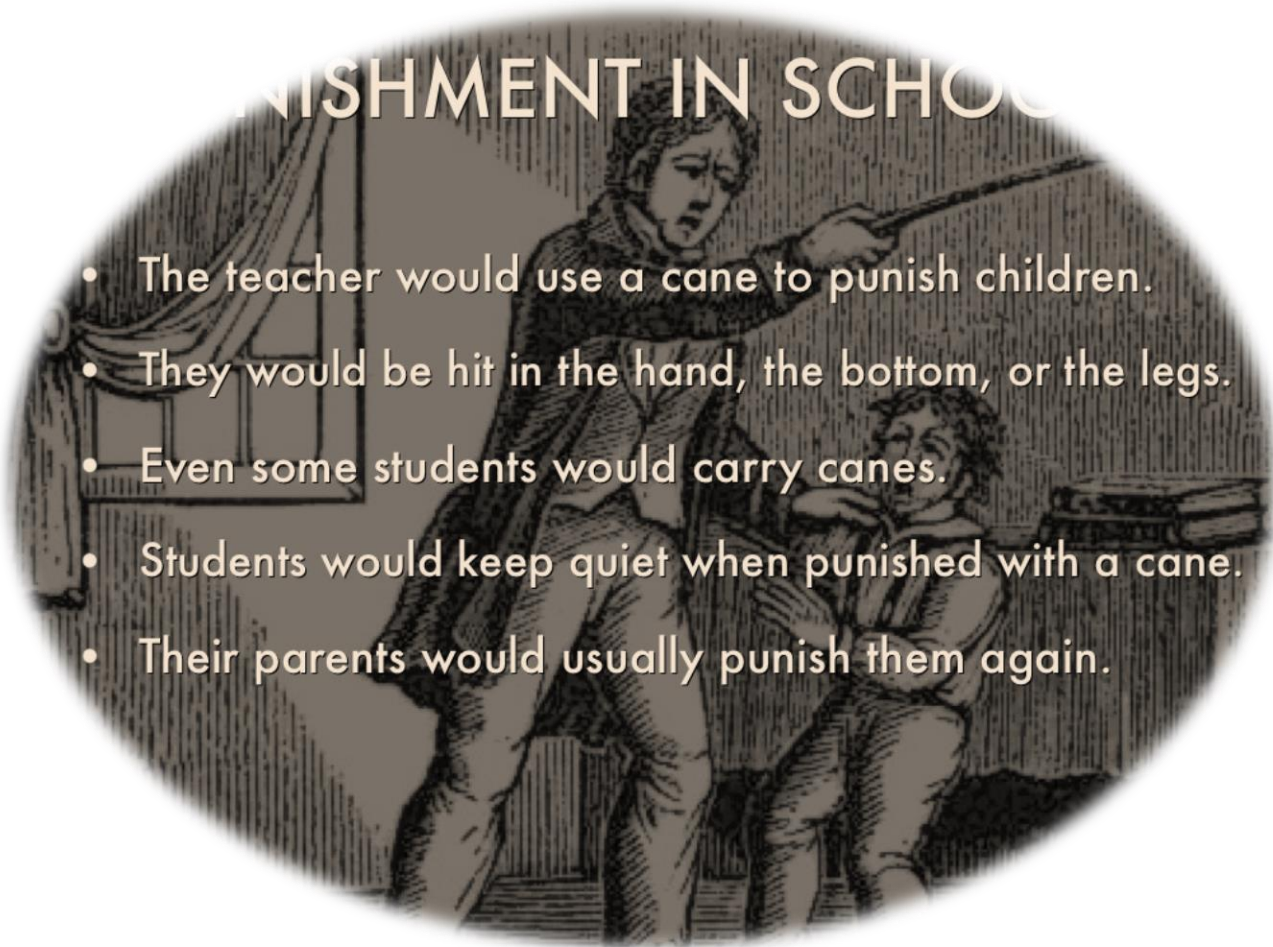
**CORPORAL PUNISHMENT WAS ALSO THE
ORDER OF THE DAY.**



IF A CHILD LEFT THE PLAYGROUND WITHOUT PERMISSION, WAS LATE FOR SCHOOL...

PUNISHMENT IN SCHOOL

- The teacher would use a cane to punish children.
- They would be hit in the hand, the bottom, or the legs.
- Even some students would carry canes.
- Students would keep quiet when punished with a cane.
- Their parents would usually punish them again.



*...THE CANE WOULD BE TAKEN OFF THE TEACHER'S
DESK AND THE CHILD WOULD BE SPANKED.*



**VICTORIAN SCHOOLS DID BREAK FOR HOLIDAYS...
THERE WAS A TWO-WEEK HIATUS FOR CHRISTMAS
AND ONE WEEK FOR EASTER.**



*SUMMER WAS CELEBRATED WITH A THREE TO
FOUR WEEK BREAK BETWEEN JULY AND AUGUST.*



SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # 104 IN OUR SERIES...

IN TOPIC # 105, WE WILL BE LOOKING AT VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS.



AboutBritain.com

ORIGINAL SOURCE MATERIAL FOR THIS TOPIC:

- [HTTP://WWW.ABOUTBRITAIN.COM/ARTICLES/VICTORIAN-SCHOOLS.ASP](http://www.aboutbritain.com/articles/victorian-schools.asp)



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"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"

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