

*Baker Street Elementary*

Presents  
"The Life and Times in Victorian London"



# Baker Street Elementary

The Life and Times in Victorian London  
# AB011 -- Victorian Schools -- February, 2022



Welcome to topic # AB011... Today, we will be discussing Victorian schools... Thanks so much to AboutBritain.com for use of their summary text for this lesson...



*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.*

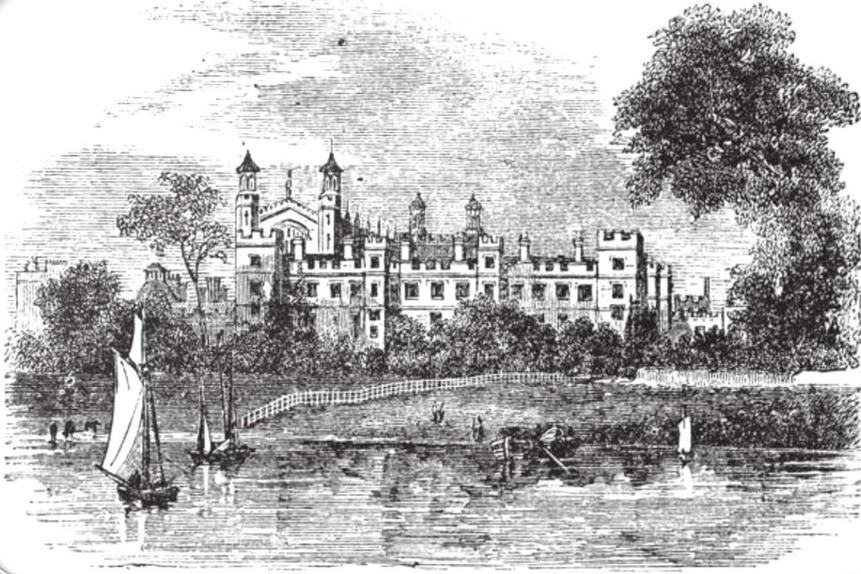




*Nannies would often start the learning process, but when the child reached six, a governess would be added to the household staff.*



*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.*





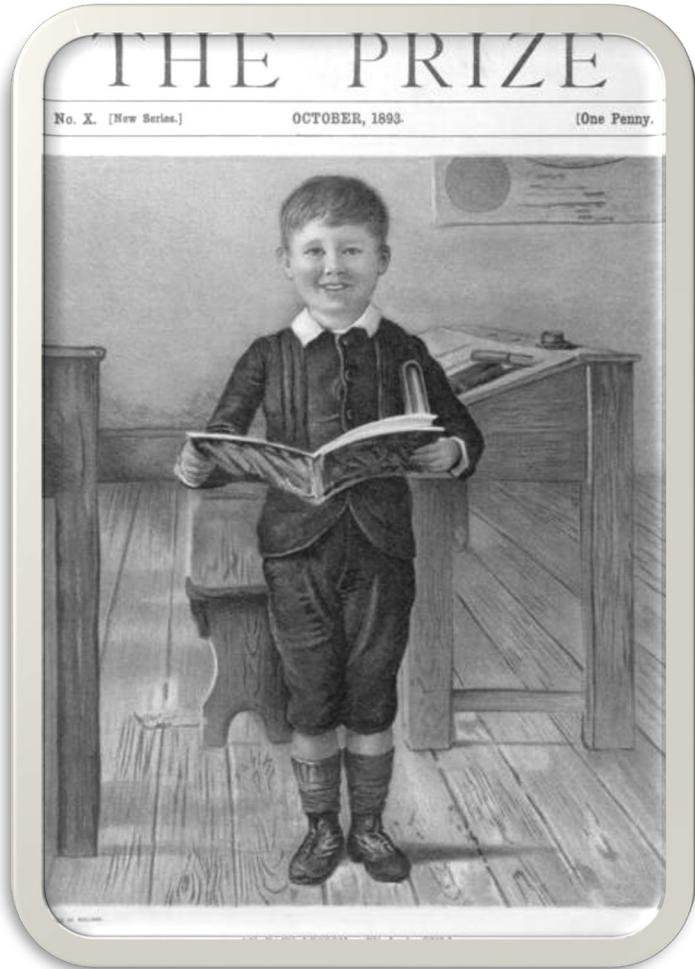
*Often windows were built high, so the children did not spend their time looking out. Because of the high windows, fresh air was a problem.*





*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...*



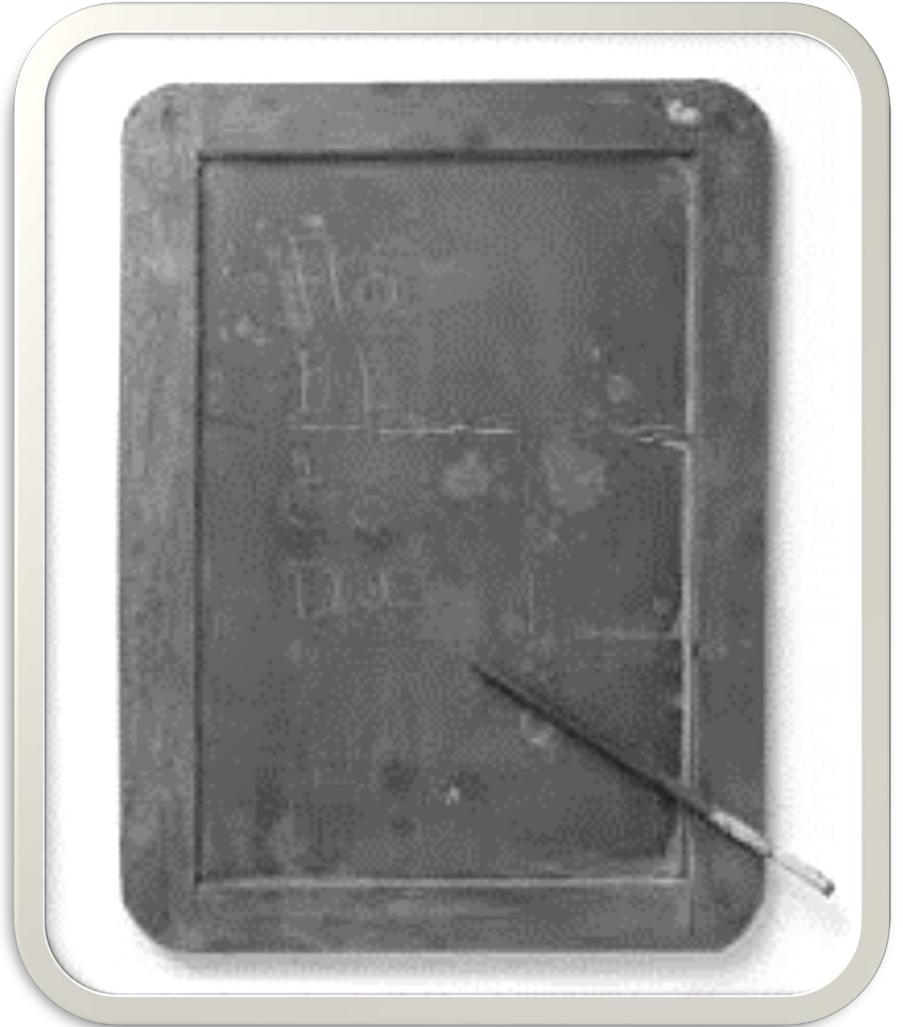
*...and could then be  
relied upon to teach  
their fellow students.*



*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.*



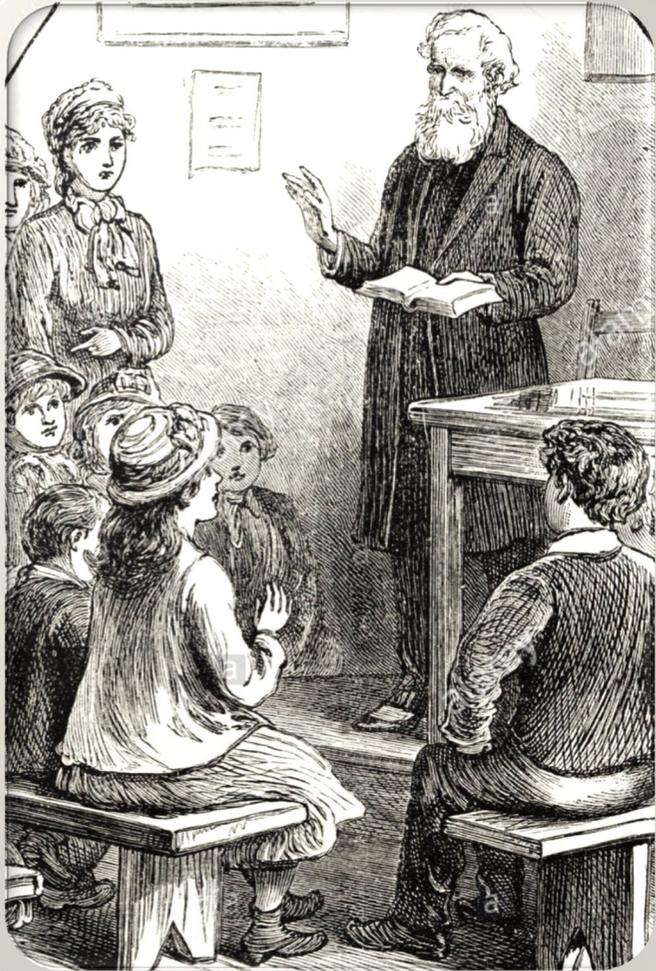


*Children from rural areas  
who could have long  
distances to walk, stayed  
and ate at school.*



*Time was then spent on the playground playing with toys such as tops, or playing games like **Blindman's Bluff** or hide and seek.*

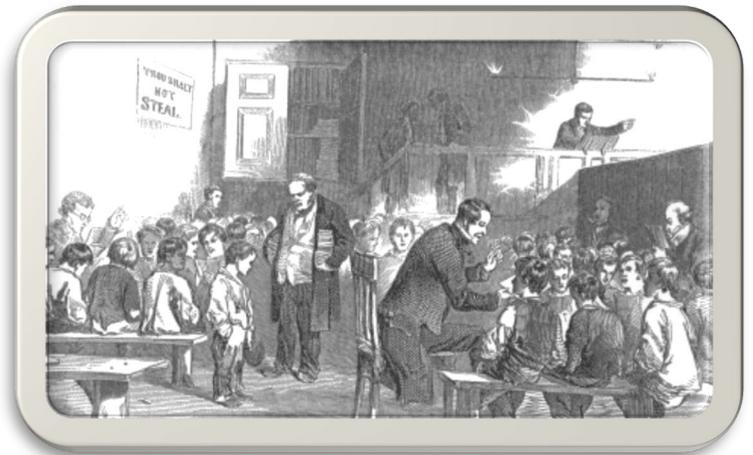




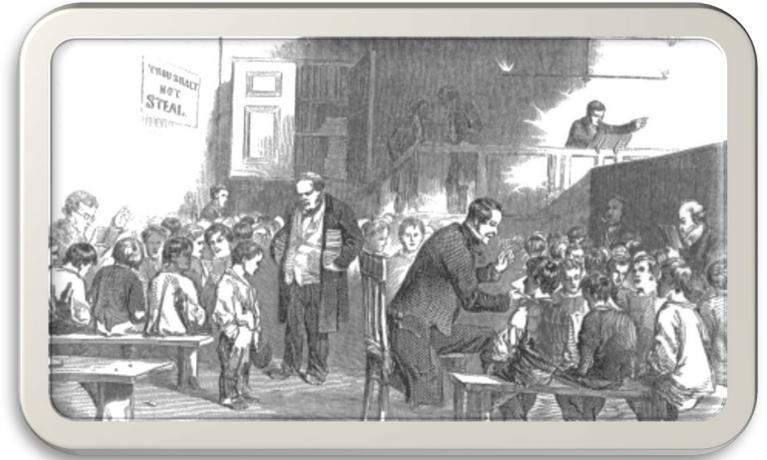
*At first, The Bible was the textbook for learning how to read.*



*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 SCHOOLS

- 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.*



*Again, thanks to  
AboutBritain.com for their  
help... So we have completed  
topic # AB011 in our series...*

*Yes, but we'll be back  
with another topic  
soon...*





**Original Source Material for this topic:**

1) <http://www.aboutbritain.com/articles/victorian-schools.asp>



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IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

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