



How did the Victorians live in Greenwich?

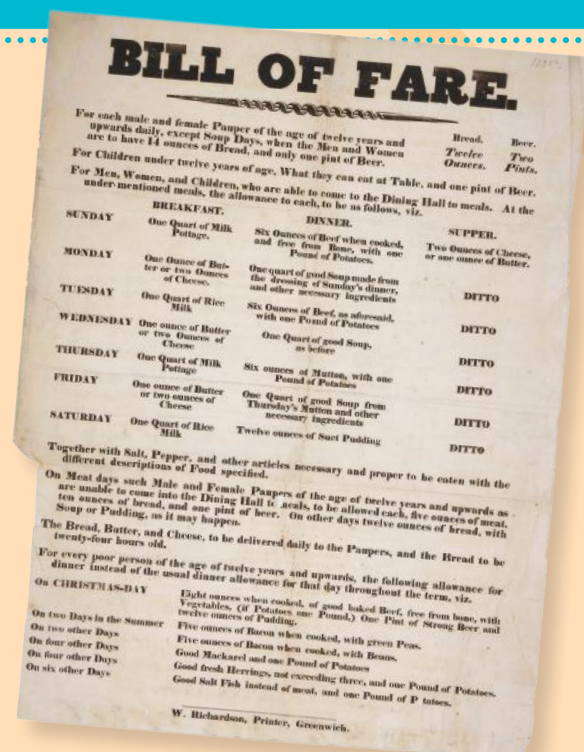
KS1/2

The Victorian era was named after its queen, who reigned from 20 June 1837 until 22 January 1901. This was a time of great change in this country, in society and industry, as well as in the countries which Britain ruled – the British empire.



There was an explosion of invention and industry in the Victorian era. The steam train and the electric car were two new developments that allowed people to travel further and quicker than before.

This poster was used in Greenwich and other parts of the UK to advertise the good food people were allegedly getting in workhouses. We don't know if they really ate like this. Workhouses were where poor people who had no job or home lived.





KS1/2

How did the Victorians live in Greenwich?

This is a picture of a Victorian child. Life was very harsh for the poor and many children lived on the streets, either orphans or abandoned by their parents.



In the table below, read about how Victorian children lived. Think about the differences with your own life by completing the column on the right.

	Victorian Child	21st Century Child
Everyday life	Poor children usually had to work instead of going to school, often in dirty and dangerous conditions in factories. Children could also earn money as chimney-sweeps.	
Going to school	Sending children to school could mean the family losing the money they could earn if they worked. Many poor children 'therefore' did not go to school.	
Health	People died from illnesses such as cholera, measles and scarlet fever. Babies in over-crowded and damp housing were the most at risk from diarrhoea and tuberculosis.	
Clothes	Boots and shoes were the most expensive items and some children were forced to go barefoot, even in winter.	
Toys and games	Poor children often made their own toys such as rag balls or, if they were lucky, bought cheap penny toys. Wealthier children played with dolls with wax or china faces, toy soldiers and train sets.	

