



A Victorian Seaside

The Victorians built railways all around Britain. People could visit places more easily. Trains were much quicker than the horse-drawn carriages. Towns by the coast became popular places to take a holiday. The Victorians thought that the sea air was good for you. It was clean and refreshing. Many people were used to working in busy, dirty towns filled with factories. Going to the seaside was a good place to go for a break!

Did they swim in the sea?

The Victorians wore swimwear which is very different to what we see on the beach today. Men would wear a swim suit with long sleeves. Women would wear a long gown. Victorians used special bathing machines to get changed in. These looked a bit like wooden huts on wheels. The people would go inside to get changed. A horse would then lead the bathing machine into the water. The people could then get into the sea without being seen in their swimming costume by people on the beach.

What did they do at the seaside?

There were piers and promenades for the Victorians to take a stroll. They could breathe in the fresh air and show off their finest outfits. They might stop and listen to a band play some music. Children could enjoy a puppet show called 'Punch and Judy.' At the end of the show, the puppeteer might collect money in a bottle. Children would also have enjoyed playing in the sand and building sandcastles just like we do today.

Victorians did not want to sunbathe. It was not fashionable. Women used hats and parasols to protect them from the sun.

Did you know?

Straw hats were sometimes worn by women. These hats were to help protect their face from the sun. These hats were known as 'uglies.' How funny!



RETRIEVAL FOCUS

1. Why was it easier for the Victorians to visit more places?
2. Why was the seaside a good place for the Victorians to take a break?
3. What did the bathing machines look like?
4. What was the name of the puppet show that the children watched?
5. What did Victorians use to protect themselves from the sun?

VIPERS QUESTIONS

V

Which word describes a kind of umbrella which protects you from the sun?

I

Why might the puppeteer collect money in a bottle?

P

Why might the straw hats be known as 'uglies'?

V

Can you find a word that means 'walk'?

S

What did Victorians spend their time doing at the seaside?