Reading Booklet

Year 2 Reading Assessment



Victorians at the Seaside

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Day trips and holidays by the sea became very popular during the Victorian age. Railways and trains were much more common and people could travel longer distances more easily. Also, in 1871, a law was passed giving people certain days of the year off work. On these days, people who worked in the factories and offices in towns would often take their family to the seaside for the day.

Why did people go to the seaside?

The towns and cities in the Victorian age were often polluted places. Many people worked in factories. These factories produced lots of smoke from burning coal to make the machinery work. The workers and their families, who lived close by, would breathe in all this smoke and grime, often making them poorly. People believed the air at the seaside was much cleaner and that paddling in the sea was good for their health.



Victorians believed being by the sea was good for their health.

What did people do at the seaside?

People enjoyed many different activities at the seaside during the Victorian age.



Punch and Judy shows are puppet shows that are performed from a little tent outside on beaches or piers.

They became very popular in the Victorian age when the puppeteers - the person who controls the puppets - began travelling on the trains to the seaside to entertain the working-class families.

The Victorians didn't sunbathe and usually stayed fully dressed when they were on the beach. If they wanted to have a paddle in the sea, many would change into their bathing costume in a special hut on wheels, called a bathing machine. This hut allowed the person to change into their bathing costume and then the hut would be moved down the beach and into the sea. The person inside it would climb down a ladder on the front to get into the sea without being seen in their costume by the people on the beach.



Bathing machines on the beach.



A Victorian bathing machine.



People also enjoyed donkey rides on the beach.