

History

Who protected Britain's citizens?

History



- ▶ What is a **philanthropist**?
- ▶ How did some of Britain's best-known charities begin?
- ▶ What did the Government do to help the poorest of the poor?


In today's Britain, we think that cruelty is wrong. We all like to think that we live in a caring society where people are protected from harm. In fact, part of any Government's job is to make sure that its citizens are protected by laws.

In Victorian Britain, some people believed that the Government didn't do enough to help vulnerable people. Instead, they tried to help people themselves ... and did a fantastic job. In fact, many of the charities in place today have their roots in the Victorian era.

Study **Source A** carefully. It's a poster from a recent **NSPCC** campaign called 'Protecting Babies'. The poster was designed to highlight how easily babies can be injured if they aren't handled properly. A similar TV advertisement showed an exhausted parent pushed to breaking point by a crying baby.

The campaign was a huge success – in research afterwards, eight out of ten people said that it had made them much more aware of how easily babies can be injured if not treated properly.

▶ **Source A** 'Protecting Babies' poster, part of the NSPCC's 'Cruelty to Children must stop: FULL STOP' campaign.



A baby's arm isn't
much stronger.

The NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) is not a new organisation – they have been actively campaigning to protect children and prevent cruelty for well over 100 years. The NSPCC, founded in 1884, is one of many examples of the fight to protect or help British citizens in Victorian times.

The terrible poverty and human suffering of the very poor haunted some people in Victorian Britain. Many decided to devote their lives to helping those less fortunate than themselves. Individuals, known as philanthropists, spent all their time helping poor people – setting up soup kitchens, care homes, hostels and schools. They worked hard to raise money and publicise the problems. Often, their work was inspired by their religious beliefs.

Look at **Source A**. i) What is the message of this poster?
ii) Was this poster a success or not? Explain your answer.

FACT: ▶ Benjamin Waugh

- ▶ Founded the NSPCC in 1884 after working for the Church in the poorest parts of London. Was appalled with the treatment of children at a time when child abuse was not a criminal offence. Parents could do what they wanted with their children – the police would only get involved if the abuse ended in death!
- ▶ The NSPCC was set up to draw attention to the abuse of children. Soon, Queen Victoria was openly supporting it.

- ▶ Waugh worked hard, writing to the Government, raising money and writing detailed reports of abused and neglected children – until Parliament introduced some child protection laws (see **Source D**). By 1904, there were nearly 200 NSPCC inspectors with the power to remove children from abusive homes. By 1905, they had helped over one million children – and their work continues today!

FACT: ▶ Lord Shaftesbury

- ▶ An MP, more interested in doing good than gaining power.
- ▶ He was successful in leading the fight in Parliament to improve working conditions for women and children.
- ▶ He also campaigned to improve education and the treatment of the mentally ill (at a time when they were seen as 'circus freaks').
- ▶ When he died in 1885, the public collected money for a **memorial** in London. Today, it stands in the middle of Piccadilly Circus!

▼ **Source B** A chimney sweep and his six-year-old helper, photographed in the 1860s. The sweeps sent their 'climbing boys' up the narrow, twisting chimneys to sweep out the soot. Sometimes the chimneys measured just 23cm by 23cm (mark it out – it's very narrow). The boys were beaten if they took too long and sometimes got trapped and died. The soot caused cancer too. Shaftesbury is best remembered for improving conditions for young 'climbing boys' like the one in the photograph.



FACT: ▶ William Booth

- ▶ A preacher from a poor Nottingham family who set up the **Salvation Army** in 1865 after being horrified by the poverty in London's East End.
- ▶ The 'army' of volunteers, in bright uniforms, playing musical instruments, toured the poor areas of towns and cities providing clothes, food and shelter to the needy. Their 'war' (they're an army remember) was on poverty.
- ▶ The direct approach of the 'Sally Army' appealed to working people and support for it grew and grew. It still remains today and provides help for those in need all over the world.

▼ **Source C** Written by William Booth, 1890

'While women creep as they do now -
I'll fight,
while little children go hungry as they
do now - I'll fight,
while men go to prison, in and out, in
and out - I'll fight,
while there is a poor lost girl upon the
street - I'll fight,
while there remains a poor lost soul in
front of the light of God - I'll fight,
I'll fight - I'll fight to the very end.'

▼ **Source D** Early child protection laws

1889 Police have power to arrest abusers and enter homes of suspected abusers

1894 Children able to give evidence in court. Mental cruelty recognised. It became an offence to deny treatment for a sick child.

1904 NSPCC inspectors given new powers to remove children from abusive homes.



FACT: ▶ Thomas Barnardo

- ▶ Thomas Barnardo set up a school for the poor in London in 1867. He opened his first home for poor children in 1870.
- ▶ One evening, an 11-year-old boy named John Somers (nicknamed 'Carrots') was turned away because the home was full. He was found two days later, dead from the cold! From then on, Barnardo promised never to turn away another child from his home. He had to open more and more to cope with the vast number of **destitute** children.
- ▶ By the time of his death in 1905, Barnardo's homes had rescued over 50 000 homeless, orphaned and crippled boys and girls. Today, **Barnardo's** is Britain's largest children's charity.

▼ **Source E** Thomas Barnardo provided boys like these with food and shelter. Amazingly, Barnardo was declared dead by two doctors when he was a baby. Only when an undertaker was about to place him in a coffin was it noticed that he was still breathing!

Today, we owe a great deal to the philanthropy of these people and they were not alone; others, like William Wilberforce and Elizabeth Fry, worked just as hard to end slavery and improve prison conditions. They drew attention to those living the most miserable lives of all and made the Government aware that it was their job to protect and help them.

FACT: ▶ The workhouse

The Government did try to help the poorest of the poor – but their help didn't always make life any better for them. In 1834, a law was passed that said that those who were old, sick or crippled could be helped at home (if they had one). But those who were fit enough to work, but didn't have a job, had to go into a **workhouse**. This was a grim, large building in each town where the poor were kept like prisoners. They were forced to work, families were separated, uniforms were worn and rules were harsh. In Andover Workhouse, workers were given the job of crushing old animal bones. In 1845, it was discovered that they were eating any flesh left on the bones because they were so hungry. To many it seemed that the poor were being punished ... for being poor!





▲ **Source F** A painting of poor people waiting to go in the workhouse.

Today, we like to think we live in a caring society. We don't tolerate abuse, cruelty, bullying or appalling living and working conditions. We are all proud of the money we raise for charity on sponsored walks, sponsored swims or Children in Need days. In many ways, we are carrying on the work of the philanthropists of Victorian Britain.



WISE UP WORDS

NSPCC Salvation Army Barnardo's
philanthropists workhouse destitute
memorial

HUNGRY FOR MORE?

Some Victorians didn't just work hard to protect children – they tried to protect animals too.

Find out about the campaign to prevent cruelty to animals. Amazingly, there were laws to protect animals more than 50 years before there were any laws to protect children.

WORK

- 1 a What is a philanthropist?
- b Write no more than two sentences about each of the following:
 - i) Benjamin Waugh ii) Lord Shaftesbury
 - iii) William Booth iv) Thomas Barnardo

One sentence must outline their achievements, whilst the other must mention an interesting fact.

TOP TIP: Plan your sentences in rough first.

- 2 Look at **Source C**.
In your own words, explain what Booth meant.
- 3 Look at **Source E**.
 - a How can you tell these boys are poor?
 - b Why do you think two of them are smiling? Think carefully before answering.
- 4 Look at **Source F**.
 - a What was a workhouse?
 - b Write down at least five words to describe how you think the people in the queue might be feeling. For each word, explain why you have chosen it.
 - c Do you think the artist was in favour of or against workhouses? Explain your answer carefully.

Who is the man on the £10 note?



- ▶ Who was Charles Darwin?
- ▶ Why were his theories so controversial?

During the year 2000, the Bank of England chose to put Charles Darwin's face on their £10 note. They only print four bank notes (£5, £10, £20 and £50), so why was his image chosen to go on one of them? Who was this man? What did he do? And why are his achievements still remembered today?

▼ **Source A** The Bank of England £10 Darwin note. Who else appears on Bank of England notes? Make a list and then find out what each has achieved.



Charles Darwin was born in 1809, the son of a doctor from Shrewsbury. At this time, people thought the Bible was literally true. That is, that humans were God's special creation and that the world had been created in six days. In fact, a professor at Cambridge University claimed to have pinpointed the time when God created the world – 9:00am on Monday, 23 October 4004 BC! He then filled the Garden of Eden with all kinds of animals and these had stayed the same from that time on.

When Darwin was a boy, few would have disagreed with this theory. Indeed, people had believed this for centuries. Yet the number of people attending church each year was dropping. Some argued that many, especially those in towns, worked so hard that they didn't have time to go to church. Others claimed that poorer people failed to go as often because the rich were treated better in churches (see **Source B**).

▼ **Source B** A description of a church in Ipswich, 1850

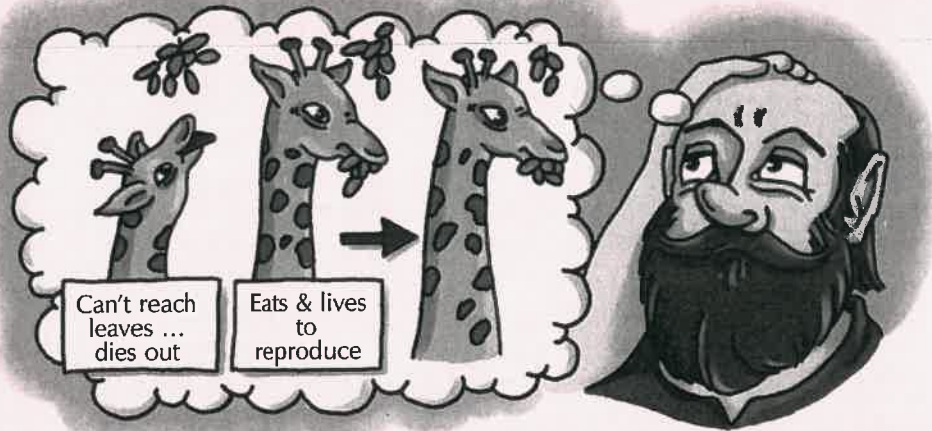
'Pews for the rich were padded, lined and cushioned. The poor were seated in stools in the aisles ... and the cold damp stone beneath their feet was the only place to kneel and pray.'

In 1851, the Government did a survey of religion in England. Church leaders were shocked to discover that only 7¼ million people had gone to church recently. Although this was about 40% of the population – which seems like a lot today – Church leaders were very disappointed. They felt that more people should attend regularly.

However, church attendance continued to drop and today, Victorians would be shocked at the percentage of the population who regularly attend church on Sundays – the figure is 1%.

So how does Charles Darwin fit into all this?

In 1859, Darwin published a book, *The Origin of Species*, which horrified the Christian Church. In it, he suggests that life had not been created by God, as many Christians believed. Instead, he wrote that life had evolved over millions of years. His **theory of evolution** suggested that species **evolve** over many, many years, because only those best suited to their environments will survive and reproduce. Their offspring will inherit the features that helped their parents to survive. God, Darwin believed, did not have a direct influence over this!



- ◀ Leaves are giraffes' favourite food! The centre giraffe is taller than the giraffe on the left. What happens if the only leaves available were on the tall trees? The shorter giraffe wouldn't be able to reach, so would starve and die. The giraffe in the centre would continue to eat, live and reproduce. The new generation of giraffes would then inherit the 'tallness' gene!

Later in 1872, Darwin published *The Descent of Man*, in which he suggests that man evolved gradually from apes over many thousands of years. Darwin was suggesting that there did not need to be a God to explain human existence! As you can imagine, the Church attacked his ideas and newspapers were full of stories and letters mocking him. Some said his ideas were born of the devil.

▼ **Source E** A university professor, 1872

'Are we nothing but animals? Is that what he's saying? Is religion not true? Is being good a waste of time?'



◀ **Source C** Darwin and his 'friend'. This drawing **mocks** Darwin's ideas. His theories were based on years of research and a five-month voyage to the Galapagos Islands in the Pacific Ocean. He noticed that some species of birds, cut off from each other on separate islands, had developed different beaks in order to survive. They had evolved to suit their environment.

Darwin's theories are still controversial. Many people today still strongly disagree with them, but no one can deny that his ideas were thought-provoking. When Darwin died in 1882, he was buried in Westminster Abbey, London, alongside other great thinkers and writers, such as Isaac Newton and Charles Dickens. Over 100 years later, he again attracted attention from the people of Britain – as the man on the £10 note.

▼ **Source D** Based on the writings of Charles Darwin

'Bit by bit, I stopped believing in Christianity ... I had always been told that animals were so wonderful that they must have been made by God. But now I know that animals have evolved over millions of years ... I don't think we can ever know whether or not there is a god.'



WISE UP WORDS

evolve mocking theory of evolution

WORK

- How many people regularly went to church in 1851?
 - Why had church attendance declined so much? Explain carefully, making sure you use a quote from **Source B** in your answer.
- Produce your own diagram or poster that explains Darwin's theory of evolution. Use pictures where appropriate and try not to use any more than 100 words.
TOP TIP: Aim your diagram or poster at someone of your own age who has never heard of this theory before.
- Look at **Source C**.
 - What point is being made by this cartoon?
 - What does this cartoon tell us about people's reactions to Darwin's theories?
- Look at **Source E**. Does the professor agree or disagree with Darwin's theory of evolution? Explain how you made your decision.
- Why do you think Darwin was chosen to go on the £10 note?
 - If you were asked to choose a person to go on a new note, who would it be? Make sure you give sensible reasons for your choice (and it can't be you!).

What shall I do with my leisure time?



- Why did some workers get more spare time?
- How did people spend their time away from work?

Where did you spend your holidays this year? Did you stay at home? Go to a relative's house? Go to the seaside? Or were you lucky enough to go to a warm sunny place on the other side of the world?

The idea of families being able to 'go on holiday' is quite a new one. In 1800, few people had holidays. Sunday was their only day off so most people rested after they had been to church. Workers were given a day off for religious festivals (Christmas Day, Easter Sunday and so on) but these 'holy days' only amounted to a couple of odd days each year.

By 1850, things had started to change. People worked shorter hours than ever before and found themselves at home earlier in the evenings and off work on Saturday afternoons. All of a sudden, ordinary workers had enough **leisure time** to enjoy new sports and other pastimes, or even go away for short holidays to the seaside.

In 1871, Parliament introduced **bank holidays**, giving workers a few more days off throughout the year when banks and offices closed. Many people found themselves asking the question that they had never asked before: what am I going to do with my leisure time?

NEW SPORTS

Sports became more organised as standard rules were introduced across the country. Competitions soon followed: the FA Cup began in 1871, Wimbledon Tennis Tournament was first played in 1877 and English and Australian teams played the first Cricket Test Match in England in 1880.

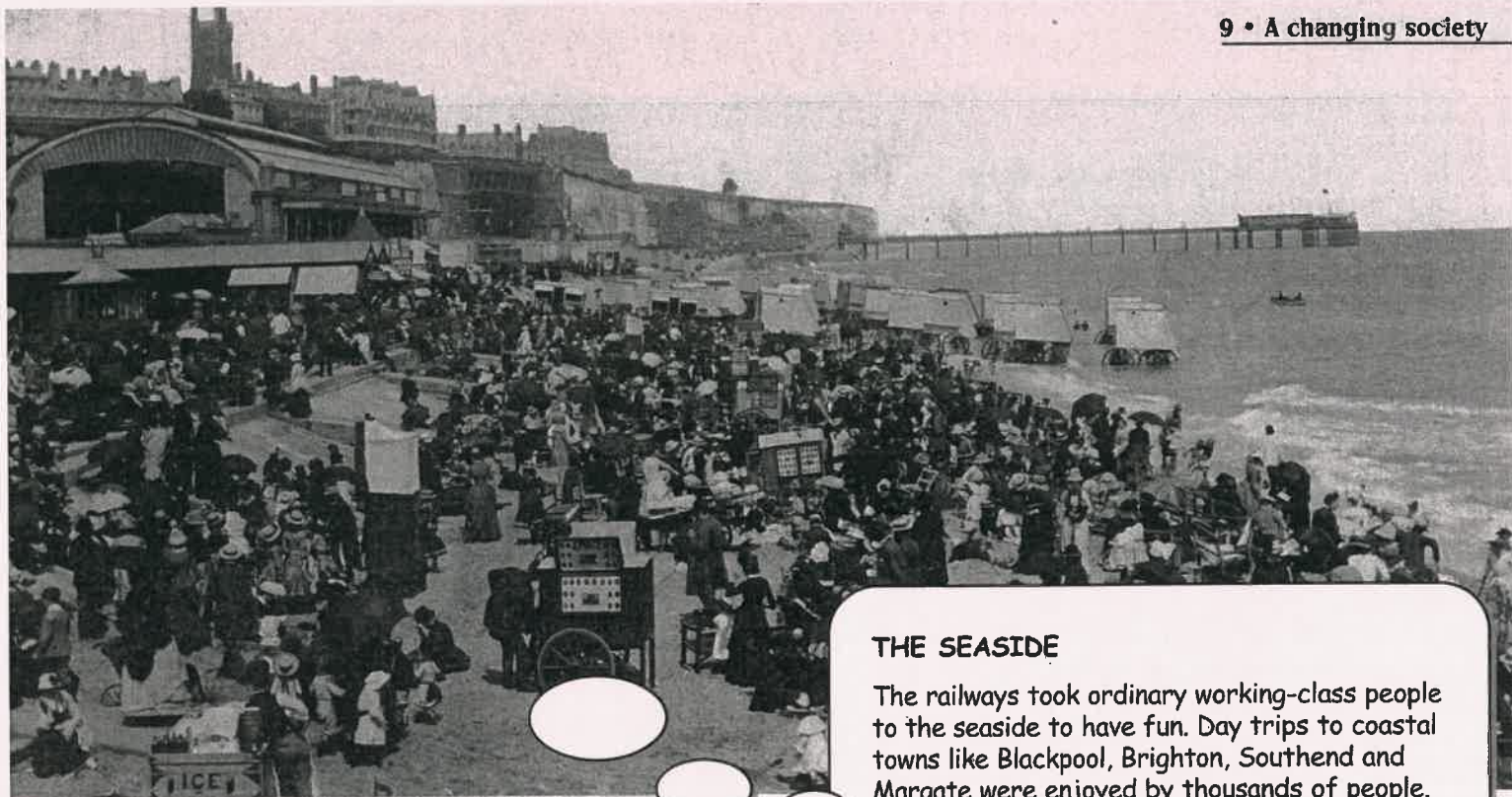


★ **Source A** The cricketer W.G. Grace (1848-1915), perhaps one of the most famous cricketers of all time.

NEW CRAZES

Cycling became very popular in the 1870s (it was one of the cheapest ways to travel). Even roller-skating became popular in the 1880s. Reading books became more common as more people learned how to read. New **novels** by authors such as Charles Dickens (*Oliver Twist*) and Mary Shelley (*Frankenstein*) sold thousands of copies. By the 1880s, photographs were also appearing in people's homes. It was very fashionable to go to a public park and have a family portrait taken by a street photographer.





▲ **Source B** Ramsgate beach in July 1887. Can you see:

- i) the pier?
- ii) the Punch and Judy show?
- iii) the ice cream seller?
- iv) the seafront hotels?

THE SEASIDE

The railways took ordinary working-class people to the seaside to have fun. Day trips to coastal towns like Blackpool, Brighton, Southend and Margate were enjoyed by thousands of people. One of the first to realise that there was money to be made by organising rail trips was a man called Thomas Cook in the 1840s. The company still organises holidays today!

FACT: ▶ What about blood sports?

- ▶ The RSPCA was set up in 1824 and the old, crueler sports slowly disappeared. Bear-baiting had been banned by 1839 and cockfighting became illegal in 1849. Public hangings were still popular but even they stopped in 1868. The last public hanging in Britain was in 1909.

HUNGRY FOR MORE?

Find out about some of the early organised sports competitions. For example:

- Wimbledon Tennis Tournament
- 'The Ashes' Cricket Contest
- The Open Golf Tournament
- The Calcutta Rugby Cup



WISE UP WORDS

leisure time bank holidays novels

WORK

- 1 a What is 'leisure time'?
b Why did the amount of leisure time enjoyed by many people start to increase after 1850?
- 2 Look at **Source B**.
a Write a short description of this scene.
b In what ways is the beach at Ramsgate in 1887 different from a typical British seaside beach today?
- 3 a What were 'blood sports'?
b Why do you think these 'sports' gradually began to disappear?
- 4 It is 1890. Plan a weekend's entertainment for you and your friend and write them a letter explaining how you will both spend your time:
 - Will you watch any sports? If so, which ones?
 - What about a day at the seaside? How will you get there? Which resort? What will you do ... and wear?
 - After visiting church, how will you spend Sunday afternoon? A walk in the park perhaps? What can you expect to do (and see) there?

TOP TIP: You want to make your friend excited about their visit, so your letter should be enthusiastically written!

The High Street



- ▶ What did a Victorian high street look like?
- ▶ What are the origins of some of our now familiar high street shops?

By 1900, about 80% of the population lived in towns or cities ... and they all needed a place to shop! It wasn't long before 'high street shopping' became common.

This painting, by Louise Rayner, is called *The Cross, Eastgate Street, Chester*. It is a great example of what a Victorian city high street would look like. Look out for:

- The tramlines – horse-drawn tramcars ran on fixed rails along the cobblestone streets. By 1890, electric trams replaced the horse-drawn ones.
- Street lights – in high streets by 1835.
- Pavements – from the 1850s, many high street pavements were improved. The first street cleaners were employed by 1860.
- Street traders – as well as the shops, people could buy from street traders or **costermongers** as they were known. Can you see the costermongers in the painting? There are at least two.
- Shops – how many different types of shop can you see?
- Rich men, poor men – the high street was a mixture of all types of people. Can you see the upper class men having a chat? What about the poor boys (one looking bored; the other staring through a shop window)?

High street quality

In 1875, the Food and Drugs Act made it possible for local councils to check on the quality of food on sale. The first inspectors found some amazing tricks of the trade being used by shop owners to fool their customers (like mixing river water with milk and putting sawdust into flour). Gradually, food quality improved.

New high street shops

The 1800s was the time for the birth of many of our familiar high street shops. John Sainsbury (1864), Jesse Boot (1871), William Henry Smith (1848), Michael Marks and Tom Spencer (1894) all started trading at this time. Thomas Lipton, a grocer, once said, 'Secret of my success? There isn't one, just advertise, advertise all you can. Never miss a chance of advertising.'



WISE UP WORDS

costermonger refrigeration



▲ **Source A** An early Sainsbury's store. By 1880, the invention of **refrigeration** meant that meat could be shipped from Australia and New Zealand without going mouldy. 'Fridges' inside shops meant that meat, milk and fish could be stored easily.



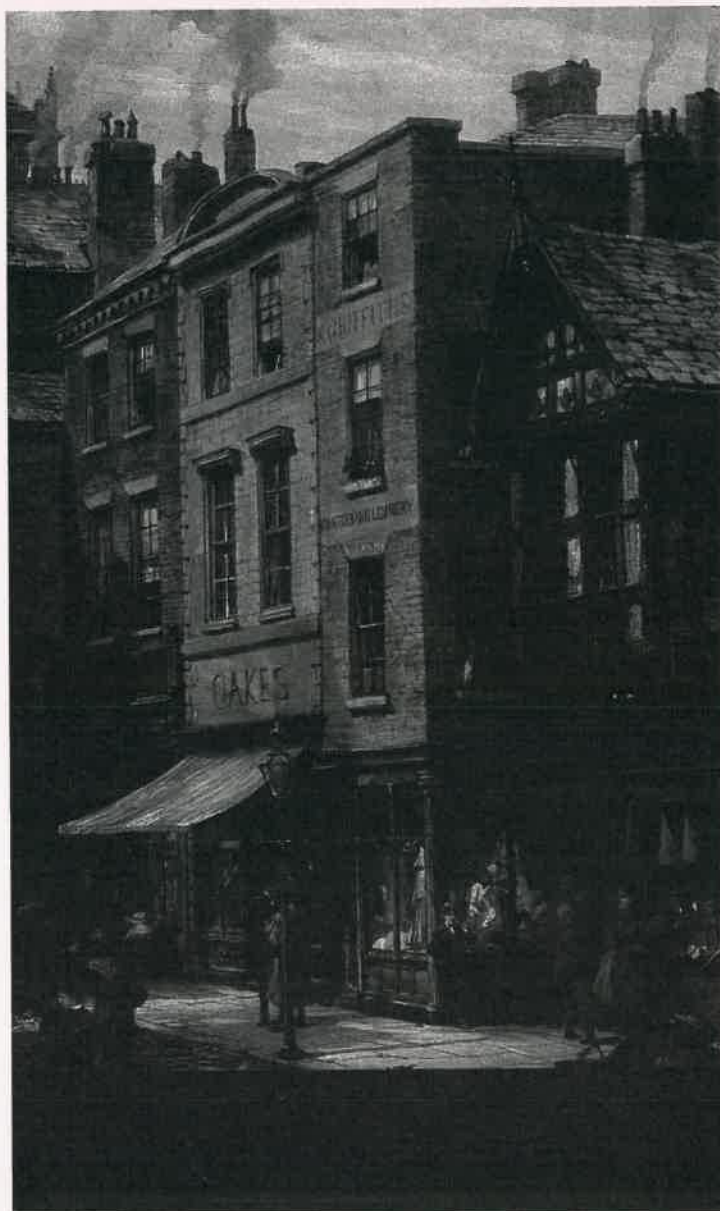
▲ **Source B** An early Co-op shop in London

New ideas on the high street

In 1844, 28 workers from Rochdale, Lancashire, each saved up to buy a stock of food and open a shop of their own. Workers sold their goods at fair prices and shared the profits out amongst their customers. Their co-operation with each other gave its name to their first shop – 'The Co-operative'. Today, Co-ops exist all around the country.

WORK

- 1
 - a List some of the well-known shops that appeared in Victorian high streets between 1848 and 1894.
 - b According to Thomas Lipton, what was the secret of his success?
 - c Do you think this 'secret' still applies to most large stores today? Explain your answer.
- 2
 - a How did 'The Co-operative' chain of stores get its name?
 - b How did the 1875 Food and Drugs Act make things safer for customers?
 - c How did the invention of refrigeration help i) shop owners and ii) customers?
- 3 Prepare a guidebook for the gallery in which Louise Rayner's painting hangs. You are to write the notes that would go in the guidebook.
 - Start with a basic description.
 - Explain what the painting tells the viewer about life in Victorian Britain – use details from the scene to help you.
 - Write why it is important to look after and preserve paintings like this.



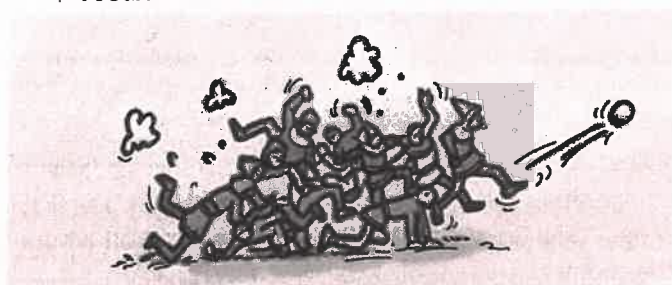
Case study: the 1883 FA Cup Final ... and after



Why was the 1883 FA Cup Final a turning point in English football?
How have the rules and regulations of football changed?

Football is not a modern game: it has been popular for centuries. In the Middle Ages, whole villages played each other – and spent most of a day punching, kicking and scratching each other. For years, there weren't any proper rules, as teams just agreed them before they started. Sometimes players were allowed to handle the ball and at other times they were not. Some teams were restricted to 20 players per side, while others had up to hundreds of people per team!

Football mob!



The first official club – Sheffield – was formed in 1857. Bizarrely, there were no other official teams for them to play, so the married players played against the unmarried ones. The first professional club (a club with paid players) was Notts County, formed in 1862. Other clubs soon started and in 1863, the Football Association was set up in an attempt to get a clear set of rules written out. Once these rules were agreed (which were quite different from today's modern rules), teams sprang up all over the country. Vicars started teams because they were keen to keep local lads out of trouble (Everton, Southampton and Aston Villa started this way), and others were formed as factory sides (like Manchester United and Arsenal).

The FA Cup began in 1871 as a knockout competition open to any team in England and Wales. Teams with names like the Old Forresters, the Darwin Ramblers, the Druids and Phoenix Bessimer tried to win the trophy. So too did teams with more familiar names like Sheffield Wednesday, Nottingham Forest and Notts County. But from 1871 onwards, the first 12 FA Cup winning teams all had something in common: they were all made up of rich boys from the upper class. Try as they might, working-class teams couldn't manage to beat them.

However, the 1883 FA Cup Final was different. A team of working-class players from Blackburn had managed to reach the final ... and they were taking the match very seriously. They were due to play the cup holders, the Old Etonians, an upper-class team of former pupils from Eton, a private, fee-paying school in Surrey. This was a chance for the working-class lads to change footballing history forever.



About 8 000 people attended the game. Newspaper reporters from Blackburn and Eton were in the crowd, there to write stories for their local papers. Read the following newspaper report carefully. Can you work out whether it would have appeared in a Blackburn paper or an Eton one?