

Homework Tasks (Year 6):

- **Comprehension:** Please complete – and mark – ‘Worst Jobs For Kids’ on pg.2 and 3 of this file. Answers can be found on pg.4. Your responses should be recorded in your Homework Jotter provided by school.
- **GPS:** Please read ‘Animal Evolution’ on pg.5 of this file then answer – and mark – the ‘Word’ and ‘Sentence’ questions on pg. 6 and 7. Answers can be found on pg.8. Please use these to help work out how to answer any questions you are unsure about. Your responses should be recorded in your Homework Jotter provided by school.

***Please ensure your completed homework is handed in at school on
Wednesday 8th November.***

- **Spelling:** A spelling test on **Autumn 2 Week 1** list of words will take place next **Friday**. The list of words is available separately on the Woodpecker Class page of the school website. Please log onto Spelling Shed to support practice at home.
- **Multiplication Facts:** A test of a variety of multiplication facts will take place every **Thursday**. Please practise all facts up to 12 x 12.
- **Reading:** You are expected to do **at least 20 minutes** of independent reading at home, **every day**. *Please remember to log all new books read – both those at home and at school – in our class reading log as there are no home reading records in Woodpecker Class:*



Worst Jobs For Kids

Ever moaned about having to do your homework? What about cleaning your bedroom, or hoovering the floor? Count yourself lucky you weren't a child during Queen Victoria's reign. You were lucky if you were sent to school back then; most children were sent out to work in some of the most horrific conditions you can imagine. You've probably heard about chimney sweeps and flower sellers, but there were much worse jobs out there if you were desperate.

Do you love rolling around in the mud? How about scraping through the dirt to find any coins or lost bits of jewellery? If that sounds good, then a job as a tosher might have been right up your street. It wasn't just the muck and filth on the street though, you'd spend most of your time down in the sewers rummaging around for anything that the rich folk up above might have dropped into the drains.

Tiny children have tiny hands, and they were perfect for fixing the fiddly little mechanisms on the enormous looms that factories used to weave fabric. The sound of the shuttles flying backwards and forwards would have caused quite a din; however, they couldn't stop working just to fix a machine. Instead, children would scuttle around underneath the vast wooden machines and try to time their movements perfectly. Quite often they would get it wrong. The lucky ones only lost a finger. The unlucky ones? Well, I'm sure you can guess.

It wasn't just fixing the looms that children's dainty digits were perfect for. The rise of the steam train meant that lots of children were needed to scrape out the cinders and clean the undercarriage of the engine. Not only did this involve a lot of choking dust and ash, but the cinders were often still red-hot, and many children suffered horrific burns.

Most houses were lit by candles back then, and so matches were needed by the thousands. Dipping the sticks in the toxic phosphorus was another job saved for the cursed children. The horrible chemical would rot their teeth and often led to fatal lung disease. Not sure it was worth it for a penny a day.





Dick Whittington said that the streets of London were paved with gold. More accurately, they were often paved with filth, particularly dog droppings. Luckily for the children of the time, they could earn money by scraping it up and selling it to the tanners - people who turned the hide of a cow into leather. If they really wanted to earn some money, they could help the tanners by stamping the poo into an odorous mix of chemicals (barefoot, of course) and using it to soak the skins. Unfortunately, many poor children didn't have access to a bath afterwards!

So there you have it. There were some pretty vile jobs for luckless lads and lasses in Victorian times, and we haven't even mentioned leech collectors, coal miners, rat catchers, navvies (canal diggers) and grave robbers. No wonder so many children were desperate to go to school!

SUMMARY FOCUS

1. What were most children lucky to do?
2. Which features of children made them perfect for many jobs?
3. What did all of the jobs have in common in terms of children's health?
4. What happened that meant more children were needed in railway stations?
5. Put the jobs in the text in order from worst to best. Give a reason for each one.

VIPERS QUESTIONS

- V** What word tells the reader how loud a noise was?
- I** What did Dick Whittington mean when he said, "The streets are paved with gold"?
- I** How do you think the author felt about Victorian children? What tells you this?
- R** What ingredient did tanners need?
- P** If you still had to do these jobs, do you think you would moan about school? Give reasons.

Answers - Worst Jobs For Kids:

1. Go to school
2. Their small size and tiny hands
3. They were all dangerous
4. The rise of the steam train
5. Any suitable order so long as appropriate reasons are given

V: Din

I: There was a lot of opportunity in London

I: Feels sorry for them. The use of language, such as luckless or cursed.

R: Dog poo

P: Any suitable prediction with reasons.

All life on Earth can trace its ancestry back to a handful of living organisms. Back then, they were single-celled microscopic things that looked nothing like an animal you would see today. However, some of the familiar traits that we recognise in modern animals (and indeed modern humans) appeared much earlier than you might think.

Somewhere around 550 million years ago, a creature crawled across the ocean bed before dying suddenly. The trail that it left and its fossilised body now live in a Chinese research institute (they were found in China), but it is the earliest known example of some revolutionary adaptations.

Yilingia spiciformis, as it is known, is the first example of a creature with a distinct front and back end. It is the earliest creature known to have a left side that mirrored its right. These may not seem like big things, but all living animals today follow the same pattern. Imagine a lion without a clear front and back. You'd never know which way to run!

In the same area and from roughly the same time, scientists have found tracks that indicate a small sea creature had tiny legs - the first animal to have them.

FOCUS ON - WORD

1 . Write an antonym for the underlined word.

modern humans

2 Match the prefixes to the words.
Each prefix can only be used once.

un
mis
re
dis

recognise
traced
appeared
familiar

3 Remove the suffix and write the root word.

root word	suffixed word
	earliest
	handful
	roughly
	fossilised



FOCUS ON - SENTENCE

1 What is the grammatical term for the underlined words?

Tick one.

Imagine a lion without a clear front and back.

- preposition phrase
- adverbial
- present verb tense
- clause

2 Circle the modal verb in each of the sentences below.

These may not seem like big things, but all living animals today follow the same pattern.

Familiar traits that we recognise in modern animals (and indeed modern humans) appeared much earlier than you might think.

3 Underline the relative clause.

The trail that it left and its fossilised body now live in a Chinese research institute.

4 Change the active sentence into a passive sentence.

Scientists have found tracks.

5 Underline the subject in the sentence.

A creature crawled across the ocean bed.



Answers - Animal Evolution

WORD

1. E.g. ancient, old, prehistoric, early, antiquated, archaic, etc...
2. disappeared

misrecognise

unfamiliar

retraced

3. early

hand

rough

fossil

SENTENCE

1. 1st option – preposition phrase

2. These **may** not seem like big things, but all living animals today follow the same pattern.

Familiar traits that we recognise in modern animals (and indeed modern humans) appeared much earlier than you **might** think.

3. The trail **that it left** and its fossilised body now live in a Chinese research institute.

4. Tracks were found by scientists.

5. A **creature** crawled across the ocean bed.