

What did the Victorians do for fun?

This is a picture of Antonia. She was born over a hundred years ago!

She grew up in Surrey, just like you. She lived in a large house called The Beeches and she had lots of pets.

Antonia's life would have been very different to yours. Computers, television and even the radio had not been invented yet!

So what did Antonia do for fun?
Let's find out!



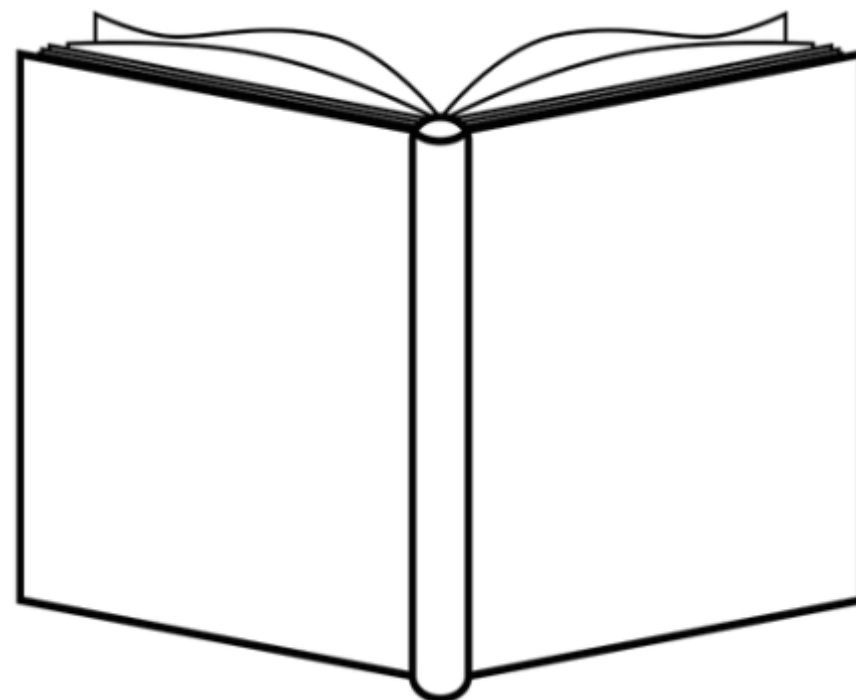
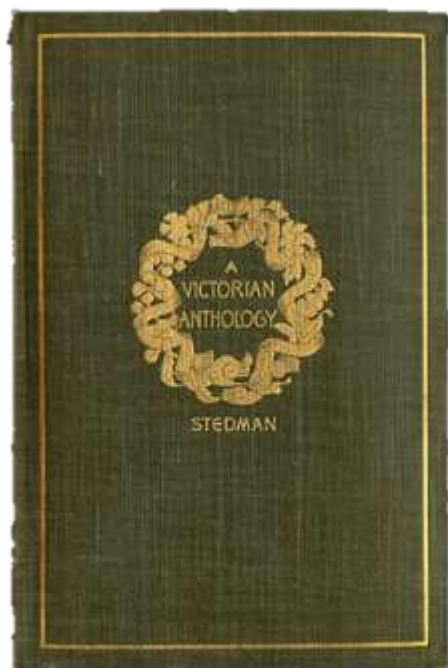
Reading

Antonia would have spent a lot of time reading stories. For a long time children's books looked a lot like the books adults read. The Victorians realised children's books needed lots of colours and pictures.



Take a look at these two books. Which book do you think is for children? Draw a circle around it.

Draw the cover of your favourite book. Is it the same as or different from the Victorian book?



Outdoor games

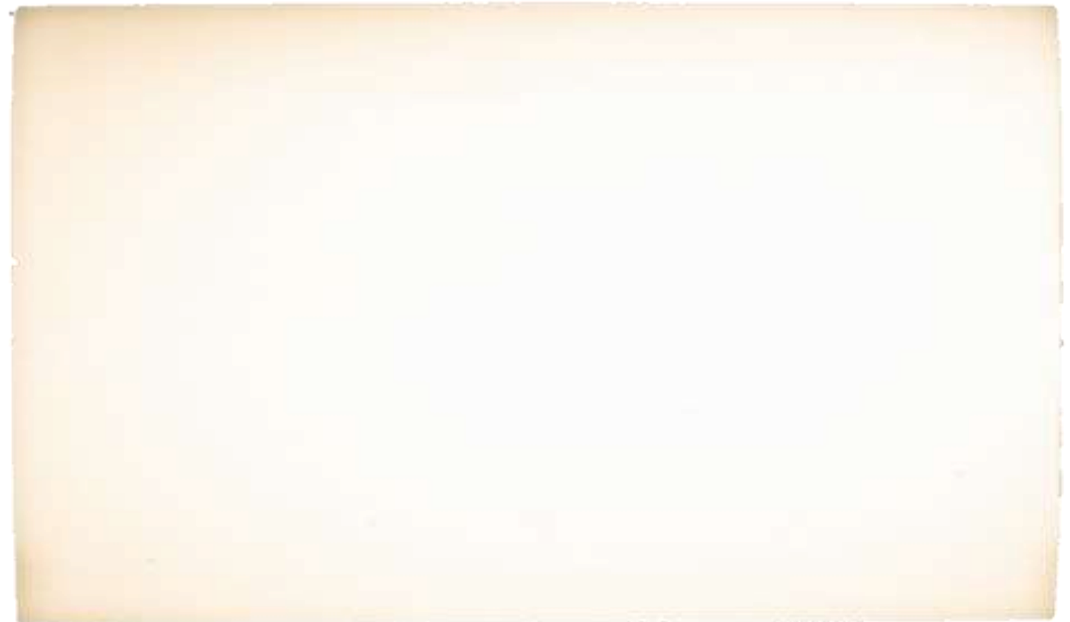


Antonia also played outside in the garden. The Victorians knew exercise was healthy and children would be taken for long walks.

This is a picture of Antonia balancing on a wall. What is your favourite thing to do outside?



The Victorians even had swing sets, just like the ones we have today!



Use this space to draw a picture of you doing your favourite outdoor activity!

Take photographs!

Antonia's Dad had his own camera and loved taking pictures of his friends and family, and even their pets in funny outfits!

That is why we have so many picture of Antonia growing up!



Taking a picture was a lot harder back in Victorian times...



Victorian cameras used film.

You had to get everything just right to take a good picture. (That is why some of Antonia's Dad's pictures are a little fuzzy)

Cameras were also very big and heavy, like this one here.

Can you imagine carrying this around?



Why not try taking some of your own photos?

How are they different or similar to the ones Antonia's Dad took?

Gardening

The Victorians loved growing plants and flowers. They brought plants from all over the world to Britain.

Antonia and her family had a huge greenhouse inside their house!



Flowers had special meanings in Victorian times. They could even be used to send secret messages!

Antonia gave these flowers to her friend. Can you work out what she was trying to say?



Sad



Fun



Play



New friend



Angry



Days on the river

Antonia and her family were lucky to live close to the River Thames. In the summer they often went on boat trips down the river.

The boat in this picture is called a punt. It is pushed through the water using a large pole. You have to stand up to push the boat forward though, so be careful not to fall in!



Colour the picture in.

Do you know what this type of boat is called? Have a go at filling in the gaps

R _ W B _ _ T

If you had a boat, what adventures would you go on?



Trips to the seaside!

The Victorians loved going to the seaside. In Victorian times a trip to the beach was very different to today.



Here are some pictures of things you would find by the sea in Victorian times. There are two choices for what they were used for. Can you tell which one is right?



A drinking bowl for dogs or a glass to hold ice cream?

Tiny houses or place to get changed into your swimming costume?



A picture of a sea horse or a donkey for children to take rides on?



This is called a penny lick and it was used instead of an ice cream cone. One scoop of ice cream was placed into it and once you'd finished it you would hand the penny lick back to the ice cream seller!

These beach huts were built so people had somewhere to change into their swimming costumes.

There were also huts on wheels called 'bathing machines' that could go in the sea. You could climb



Donkey rides were very popular in Victorian times. Children would pay to sit on the donkey and would ride up and down the beach.

Punch and Judy

Victorian children at the seaside would also go to see puppet shows. The most famous is the Punch and Judy show.

These shows would be set up on the pavement or on the beach. People would pay to sit and watch them.

Every show used the same characters...



Punch



Judy



A naughty
crocodile



Sausages!



Storytelling



What do you think is happening in these pictures?
Can you turn them into a story?



When Antonia grew up she gave her family pictures to her daughter, who then gave them to the museum! That is how we know so much about her life!



Would you like to have grown up in Victorian times?