



Lesson Plan Summary

Magic Tree House Fact Tracker: Rags and Riches

What a Difference a Century Makes!

A timeline extension activity for use with Rags and Riches, the Fact Tracker companion to Magic Tree House # 44: A Ghost Tale For Christmas Time.

DURING THIS BOOK STUDY, EACH STUDENT WILL:	COMMON CORE STANDARDS ADDRESSED:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learn historical facts about the Victorian Era.• Organize historical events of the Victorian Era in chronological order.• Enter events of the Victorian Era on a timeline.• Using a timeline, create a timeline flip book about the Victorian Era.• Use technology to further research the Victorian Era.	<p>Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read and comprehend historical text.• Refer to details and examples in text when drawing inferences.• Describe the overall structure, including chronology of events in a text. <p>Writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to the task. <p>Social Studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analyze changes which occurred in communities, past and present.• Analyze similarities and differences among families in different times and in different places

44-1SFT112

Created by: Paula Henson, 2007 Magic Tree House Teacher of the Year Knoxville, Tennessee



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Timelines, when appropriately applied, have a number of benefits. They allow students to understand that one thing has to follow another, and also serves to give them a visual representation of a period in history. This is especially beneficial for visual learners who otherwise might have difficulty understanding the continuum of time. Organizing the events of the Victorian Era is a perfect application for a timeline. The following related activity allows students the opportunity to extend their learning by putting the events noted on a timeline into book form and space to add images and more detailed information. After reading the Fact Tracker, Rags and Riches, your students will discover that the Victorian age was a dark period for children in England. They suffered numerous hardships and were forced to work in extremely dangerous conditions. However, over a period of time, conditions improved and new laws were passed that protected children. The timeline activities will allow children to see the progress that was made during this time.

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What a Difference A Century Makes!

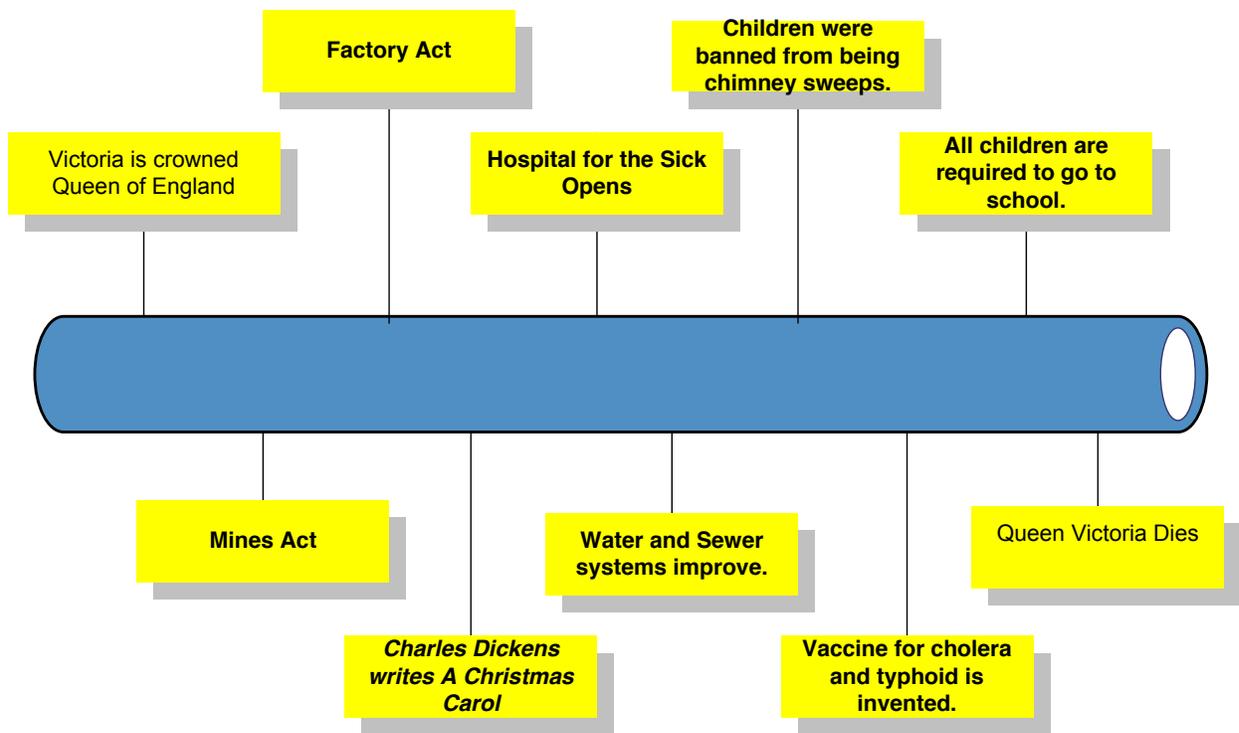
(Timeline Activity)

- 1) Read both A Ghost Tale for Christmas Time and Rags and Riches with your class. Discuss what life was like for children during the Victorian Era and how it differs from the lives of children today. You may wish to make a T-chart or Venn diagram to note differences and similarities between conditions for children then and now.
- 2) Print “What a Difference a Century Makes” timeline and Timeline Fact Sheet for each student. (provided)
- 3) Using the Fact Tracker, Rags and Riches as a guide fill in the dates on the timeline activity sheet. Students will also need to use the Timeline Fact Sheet.

What a Difference a Century Makes!

Name: _____

Poor children living during the Victorian Era endured harsh living conditions. Conditions slowly improved during Queen Victoria's reign. Fill in the dates on the timeline under the corresponding events to show this progression. Use the information on the following page and the research guide to help you.



Timeline Fact Sheet

1837 – Victoria is crowned Queen of England.

1843 – Mines Act – stopped children under the age of 10 from working in mines.

1844 – Factory Act – stopped children 8-13 from working more than 6.5 hours per day.

1843 – Charles Dickens's wrote A Christmas Carol.

1852 – The Hospital for Sick Children Opens.

1854 – Cholera epidemic forces cleaner water and proper sewer systems.

1864- Law passed banning anyone under the age of 21 from working as chimney sweeps.

1879 – Vaccine for cholera and typhoid is invented.

1890 – All children were required to go to school.

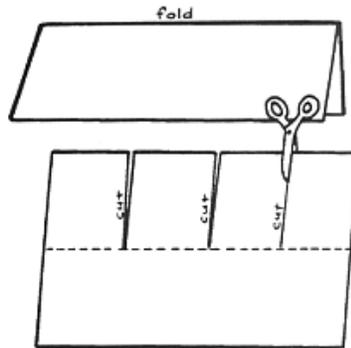
1901 – Queen Victoria dies which marks the end of the Victorian Era.

Note: (The children will need this information in print on a separate page to complete the timeline. Use the dates above on the timeline.)

Timeline Flip Books

After completing the timeline, children will be ready to make their timeline flip booklets.

- 1) Give each child a piece of construction paper and instruct them to fold in the following way: Fold paper in half lengthwise and crease. Unfold and cut in four equal sections to the fold:



- 2) Instruct children to use the information on their timelines and choose four of the events to put in chronological order in their flip book.
- 3) Using the timeline as a guide, instruct children to write the date of each event that happened during the Victorian Age on the appropriate page in chronological order.
- 4) Next, allow children to research the events they have selected and find images on the internet to represent each event.



- 5) Using the Fact Tracker Rags and Riches, students should add information about each event to put under the four sections of their flip book. They may also wish to use information they discover on the internet. They can print out their research findings and glue into their flip books.



Note: Variations of flip books can be created to increase the number of pages you wish to have. More “flaps” can be cut or you can start with two pieces of construction paper “sandwiched” together. This will create more pages under each “flap”.