

Read this non-fiction text about **Victorians at the Seaside** and answer the following questions.

# Victorians at the Seaside

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.

### 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.



**Victorians at the Seaside**

1. **When** was the law passed giving people certain days of the year off work?

1781

1871

1917

2. **Why** did daytrips and holidays by the sea become more popular during the Victorian Age?

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3. 'The towns and cities in the Victorian age were often **polluted** places.' **What** does the word '**polluted**' mean?

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4. **What** did people do at the seaside that was believed to be good for their health?

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5. **What** does the word '**puppeteer**' mean?

the person who makes the puppets

the person who watches the puppets

the person who controls the puppets

the person who pays for the puppets