Class in Victorian Society

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What determined a person's class?

- Occupation

  - **Upper classes** were landowners, were able to hire lower classes to work for them

  - **Middle/lower classes** had to perform manual labor

- Wealth

  - Many of the **lower classes** lived in **poverty**

  - **Upper classes** had titles, wealth, land, or all three

How important was class?

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Determines the success of the people

- **higher middle class** is considered to be the most Successful (more opportunity to have contact with Royal class).

- **Low middle class** works in bad working conditions and they did not have access to clean water and food.

- **Lower class** is people who were helpless and depended on the support of others.

Higher class brings more opportunities for people.

Who was in the upper class?

"Royal" is consider as the higher class during the Victorian era.

- They get all benefits from the country

- They control the country (they hold the most powerful)

Who was in the middle class?

Middle included successful industrialists and wealthy bankers.

- Skilled jobs to support themselves and their families.
- Work in different business.
- Able to get jobs more easily.

Who was in the working class?

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- Unskilled laborers
  - Worked in poor and unsanitary conditions
- No access to:
  - Clean water or food
  - Education for children
  - Proper clothing

How did class affect women?

Upper class

- Had limited responsibilities
  - Known to be weak
  - Had servants to do chores
- Everyday tasks:
  - Accepting and paying visits
  - Organizing dinner parties

Middle/Working class

- Less opportunities
  - Less education
- Worked in domestic service for the wealthy
  - Cook
  - Maid
  - Laundress

How did class affect children?

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Upper class

- Taught at home by a private tutor

- Boys often went to boarding schools

Middle/Working class

- Work instead of school
  - With their parents at home
  - Workshops
    - Matchboxes
    - Sewing

Sources

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