

Name: _____ Period: _____ Date: _____

A Christmas Carol—Guided Notes for Working Class Life in Victorian England

Introduction to the Time Period

-We refer to the nineteenth century in England as the _____.
During this time, there were developments in technology that meant many people stopped working on the land and instead moved to towns and cities to work in _____.

-This meant cities were overcrowded and the working class may have had up to _____ people living in one room.

-Children as young as _____ worked in factories.

-Life expectancy is about _____ years.

-_____ babies die before their first birthday.

-Those who could not keep up financially were forced to join _____.

Workhouses

-Workhouses varied in size. The smallest housed _____ people, while the largest housed _____.

-They were _____ communities meaning that people had all of their needs in one place.

-Apart from the basic rooms such as a dining-hall for eating, day-rooms for the elderly, and dormitories for sleeping, workhouses often had their own bakery, laundry, tailor's and shoe-maker's, vegetable gardens and orchards, and even a piggery for raising pigs.



Why enter a workhouse?

-Entry to the workhouses was _____, but it was certainly the last choice for people. People ended up in the workhouse for a variety of reasons.

-Usually, it was because they were _____. This may have resulted from such things as a lack of work during periods of high unemployment, or someone having no family willing or able to provide care for them when they became elderly or sick.

~ _____ were often disowned by their families and the workhouse was the only place they could go during and after the birth of their child.

-Unfortunately, the _____ and _____ poor were often forced into the workhouse.

The Daily Routine

-Workhouse inmates — at least those who were capable of it — were given a variety of work to perform, much of which was involved in running the workhouse.

-The women mostly did jobs such as _____, or helping in the _____ or _____.

-Some workhouses had workshops for sewing, spinning and weaving or other local trades. Others had their own vegetable gardens where the inmates worked to provide food for the workhouse.

The Dining Hall

-Meals at workhouses consisted mainly of _____, _____, _____, _____, and sometimes _____.

Thomas Malthus

In your own words, sum up Malthus's thoughts on the poor. _____
