



How children's lives have changed over the years



What's a day in your life like today? You probably go to school and do your homework. At home, you do a few simple chores, like doing the washing up or making your bed. You might complain about not having enough free time to relax.

In the past, children your age probably had a little more to complain about. Throughout much of history, many didn't **go to school** because they had to help all day at home or on the farm. Their parents taught them what they knew, but very few adults could read or write. Back in the days of pearl diving, the season lasted from June to September. Diving ships, called *banoosh* or *boom*, had a crew which included young boys who were trained from the age of ten. These children's education was their life at sea, and the school was the ship they dived off. It was a very adventurous life, and people today still tell stories and sing songs of these brave children who swam deep into the sea to find its hidden treasures.



By the 19th century, many people began moving into cities to find jobs. In cities, there was no longer a need to have children work on the farm. So they began working in factories instead. In England, many children worked long hours six days a week. And they earned very little money in return. Children started working from a very young age, sometimes at only five or six years old. They gave all of their money to their parents to help pay for the family's needs.



Today, most children go to school. Sometimes teenagers work part-time jobs to earn money. But many

Choose the correct answer:

- What do children usually do today?
 - Work in factories
 - Go to school and do homework
 - Dive for pearls
 - Stay at home all day
- Why didn't many children go to school in the past?
 - Schools were too far
 - They didn't like school
 - They had to help at home or on the farm
 - There were too many students
- What was *banoosh* or *boom*?
 - A school
 - A farm
 - A type of ship
 - A job

4. At what age did some boys start training for pearl diving?

- a) Five
- b) Ten
- c) Fifteen
- d) Twenty

5- What does the writer think about children's lives today?

- a) They are very difficult
- b) They are the same as before
- c) They are easier than in the past
- d) They are more dangerous

10. What is one thing children today still have time for?

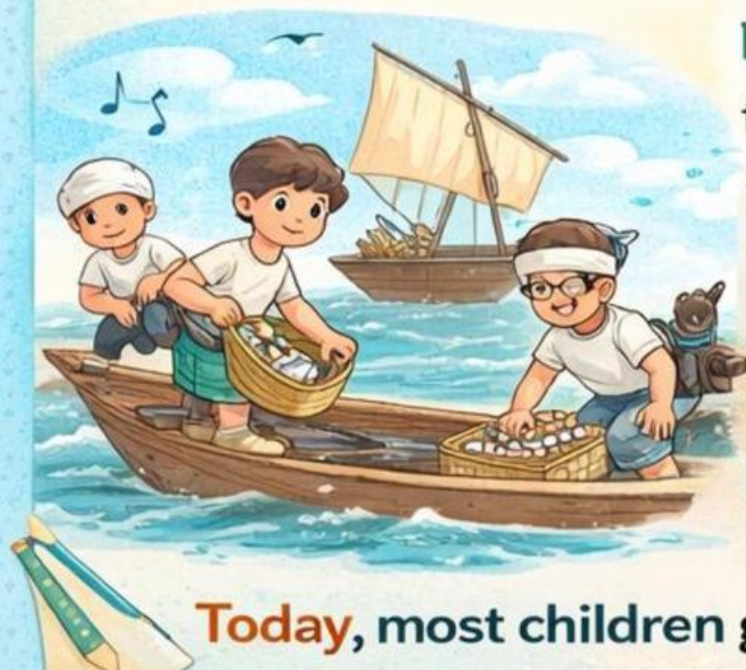
- a) Farming
- b) Diving
- c) Relaxing and spending time with friends
- d) Working all day



How children's lives ha

What's a day in your life like today? You probably do simple chores, like doing the washing up or making your bed. You have free time to relax.

In the past, children your age probably had a little more work. Throughout much of history, many didn't **go to school**. They helped all day at home or on the farm. Their parents taught them what they knew, but very few adults could read or write. Back in the 18th century, the whaling season lasted from June to September. Diving ships, called *boats*, had a crew which included young boys who were as young as 10. These children's education was their life at sea, and they lived an adventurous life, and people today still tell stories about them. They went into the sea to find its hidden treasures.



By the 19th century, many children found jobs. In cities, there was no work on the farm. So they had to go to England, many children worked. And they earned very little money. They were working from a very young age, some as young as 5 years old. They gave all their money to help pay for the family's needs.

Today, most children go to school. Sometimes