

Eighteenth century farms were devoted almost entirely to dairy, beef or sheep farming. Corn, hay, and root crops were grown for animal feed, although local farmers also kept a few pigs and chickens and grew other crops for their own use or to sell at market. Many farmers topped up their income by hand loom weaving or hatting.

As the cities became more industrialised, more and more people left farms to work in towns. But farming was still important and the growing population needed feeding. There were advances in technology, including improved breeds, better drainage and the introduction of chemical fertilisers. Market gardens were created to produce fruit and vegetables for the region's towns.

Poor families who lived in the countryside would also send their children out to work. There would have been many roles and duties, both for adults and children.

Some of the children's roles included guarding the animals, sowing and picking potatoes and other crops, as well as taking the livestock to market. They would fill sacks and collect firewood. As they became young adults they would have more physical tasks, including ploughing the fields.

During harvest time everyone had to work together to get the job done. Seven and eight year olds could work as bird scarers, out in the fields from four in the morning until seven at night, stopping briefly for a lunch of bread and sometimes they would receive cheese. For tea they would have bread again or potato and if they were lucky they might have some bacon.



Retrieval:

- How did farmers 'top up their income'?
- Describe 2 jobs a Victorian child may have done on a farm.

Vocabulary:

- 'As the cities became more industrialised'***.

What does industrial mean? Have you heard this word before?

Inference:

- Why do you think 'everyone had to work together to get the job done' during harvest time?

Industrial



An industry is a group of manufacturers (factories) or businesses that make a particular kind of goods or services.

Industry comes from the Latin *industria*, which means "hard work," and the word is still used with that meaning.

