

What was life like for a poor child in cities and towns in the 1840's?

CAPEL ST 1850

What was life like for a poor child in cities and towns in the 1840's?

- Most children had to work to help their families earn enough money to live. Employers used them as cheap labour



CAPEL AT 1847

What type of jobs did children do?

Children worked in:

- Factories
- Coalmines
- Big houses, sweeping chimneys

CAPEL AT 1850

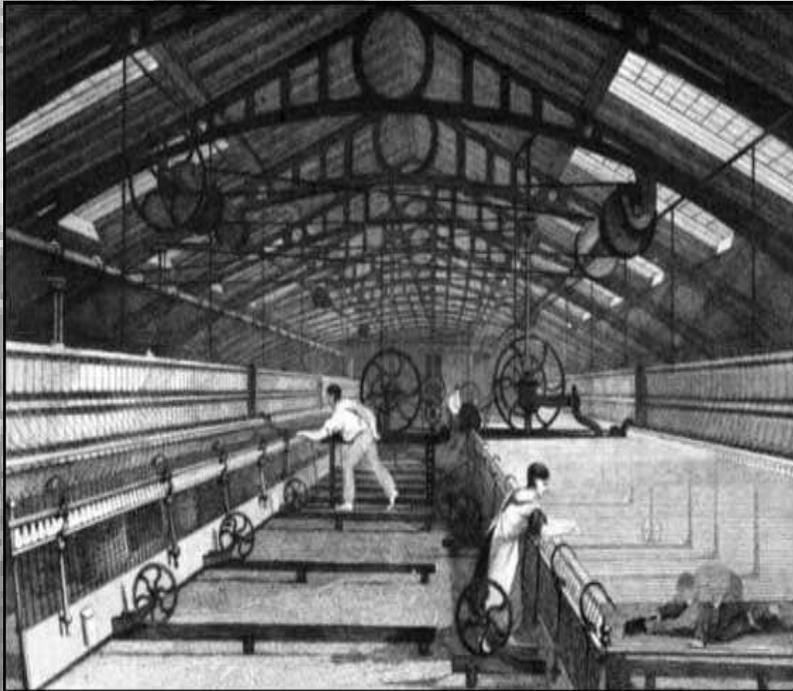
Factories



CHILD AT WORK

- The youngest children in the textile factories were usually employed as scavengers and piecers. Scavengers had to pick up the loose cotton from under the machinery. This was extremely dangerous as the children were expected to carry out the task while the machine was still working.

Factories

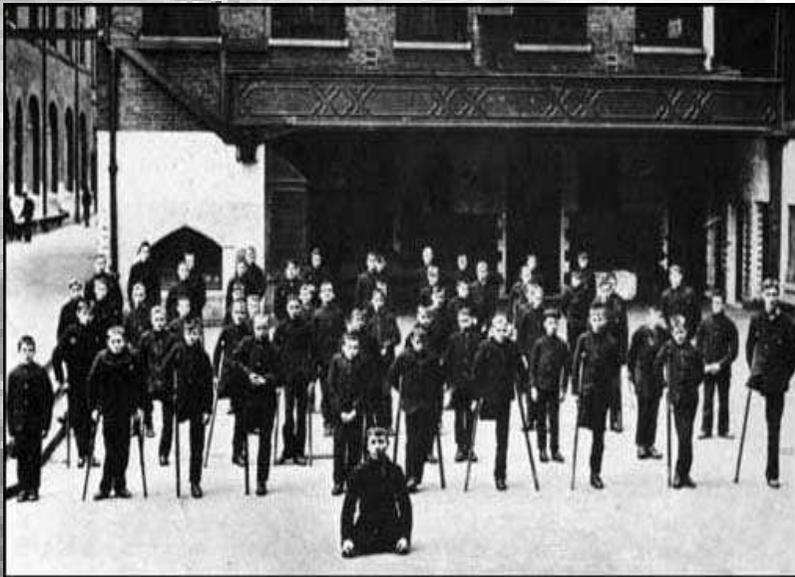


- Piecers had to lean over the spinning-machine to repair the broken threads.

CAPEL AT 1837

Factories

- Factories were noisy and dangerous. Many children suffered serious accidents.



CAPEL AT 1897

Factories



CAPEL AT 18177

- Children who worked long hours in the textile mills became very tired and found it difficult to maintain the speed required by the over lookers. Children were usually hit with a strap to make them work faster. In some factories children were dipped head first into the water cistern if they became drowsy. Children were also punished for arriving late for work and for talking to the other children. Parish apprentices who ran away from the factory was in danger of being sent to prison. Children who were considered potential runaways were placed in irons.

Coal mines

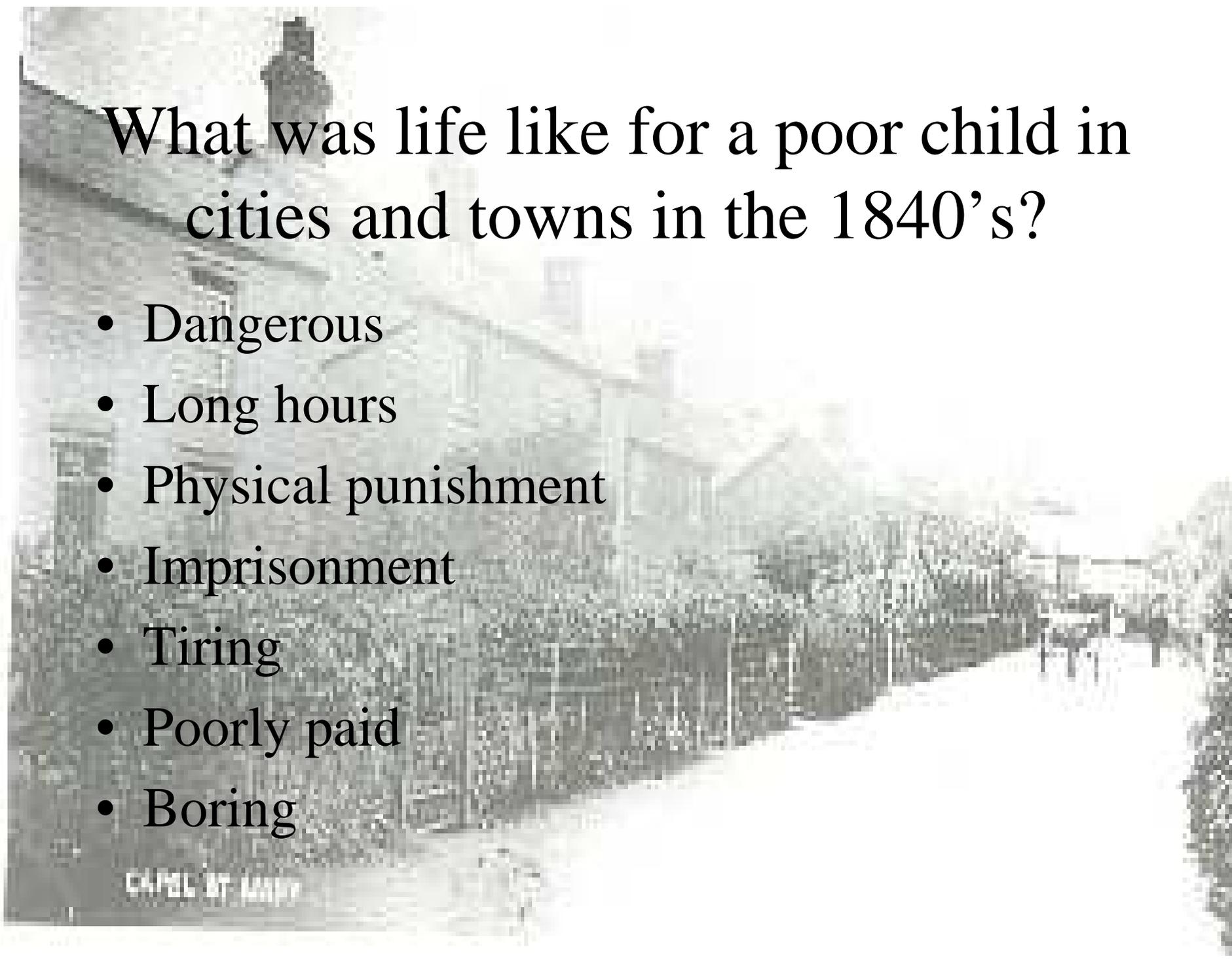
- Many children worked underground in the coal mines, where they were small enough to drag trucks of coal along narrow tunnels opening the doors to let the trucks through. This was dangerous work and there were many accidents.

CAPEL AT 1897

Chimney sweeps

- Chimney sweeps used young boys to climb chimneys and clean away the soot. They were often burned or hurt.

CAPEL AT 1850



What was life like for a poor child in cities and towns in the 1840's?

- Dangerous
- Long hours
- Physical punishment
- Imprisonment
- Tiring
- Poorly paid
- Boring

CAPEL AT 1847