

Activity 1: Pick out the evidence from this primary source and decide what it says about Victorian times

Below is an extract from a factory inspector's report from 1836. This is a **primary source**.

Read the text and circle or highlight the evidence and decide what it says about Victorian times

My Lord, in the case of Taylor, Ibbotson & Co. I took the evidence from the mouths of the boys themselves. They stated to me that they commenced working on Friday morning, the 27th of May last, at six a.m., and that, with the exception of meal hours and one hour at midnight extra, they did not cease working till four o'clock on Saturday evening, having been two days and a night thus engaged. Believing the case scarcely possible, I asked every boy the same questions, and from each received the same answers. I then went into the house to look at the time book, and, in the presence of one of the masters, referred to the cruelty of the case, and stated that I should certainly punish it with all the severity in my power. Mr. Rayner, the certificating surgeon of Bastile, was with me at the time.

Source: Factories. Correspondence relative to the firm of Taylor, Ibbotson & Co, HC353 (1836), XLV, p. 221