History Hackers: Victorian Venture

Charlie pocketed the small bag and quickly began to rummage through the stacks of paper and scrolls that littered the desk. Eventually, he pulled out a piece of thickly folded paper which he opened out across the worktop.

"All we have to do is find the doorway," he explained, searching the sketched streets of York, which stretched across the map like arteries and veins. "The Victorians were much more civilised than the Romans. What's the worst that could happen?"

According to Professor Howe's journal, this map plotted the location of a number of time doors – the Professor called them 'gates' – leading back to different periods in the city's history. The small bags that hung from each pin contained coins and trinkets from those periods and it was these items which could enable the holder to pass through the gate.

The two children had been sceptical at first, neither quite prepared to believe that time travel was possible. Yet, when they had finally dared to put the professor's theories to the test, the results had been astonishing.

"We'd never find the right clothes," Tilda said from her position peering over Charlie's shoulder. "We'd stand out like sore thumbs and that would attract trouble."



"We can go to the fancy dress shop," Charlie said. "They've always got Oliver Twist costumes in stock – is that a Dickens one?"

As exciting possibilities began to bubble in Tilda's mind, her eyes skirted the map's inked streets and roads until she found one marked 'Shambles'. Perhaps York's most historic and famous street, the Shambles was still filled with timber-framed buildings which hung over the ancient cobbles like the hoods of watchful spectres.

Tilda's gaze settled upon the sketch of a key sitting a few backstreets away. A single word, so carefully written beneath the key, grabbed her attention: 'Victorians'.

Perhaps sensing his big sister's brewing enthusiasm, Charlie dragged the little fabric pouch out of his pocket and dropped it onto the map.

"We can both be in Victorian York by tomorrow lunchtime. We'd see for ourselves what life was really like and remember, Tils, time stands still here while we're away, so we've nothing to lose. It'll be a laugh!"



Questions

1. What was Charlie looking for on the map? Tick the correct choice.

   - ○ a scroll
   - ○ a desk
   - ○ a doorway
   - ○ some clothes

2. What was contained in the small bags that were hanging up? Select **two**.

   - ○ pins
   - ○ coins
   - ○ clothes
   - ○ trinkets

3. Number these events in the order that they happen in the story. The first one has been done for you.

   - [1] Charlie rummages through the stacks of paper on the desk.
   - [ ] Charlie suggests that they go to the fancy dress shop.
   - [ ] Charlie opens the map out across the worktop.
   - [ ] Tilda says that they don't have the right clothes.

4. Draw lines to match the words or names with the correct descriptions.

the Shambles	a time traveller who left his journal
York	a street in York
Professor Howe	Charlie's big sister
Tilda	the city shown on the map

Fill in the missing word(s):

According to Charlie, 'the Victorians were much more civilised than _____.'

5. What kind of costume did Charlie suggest was always in the fancy dress shop?

   _____

6. How soon did the children think they could be in Victorian York?

   _____

   _____