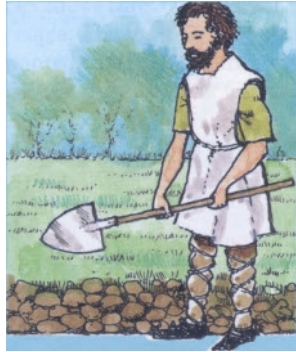


Period: *1250s*



Living Score: *3.2*

Life was tough
with lots of hard
physical work.



On average people
only lived to around
the age of 40, a lot
less than today.



Period: *1315-19*



Living Score: *2.1*

Rain, rain, rain! It never
stopped. This caused five
years of bad harvests and
that led to many deaths from
starvation.



Period: 1348-9



Living Score: 0.5

The Black Death killed over 40% of the population.
No-one knew what caused the disease or how to stop it.
People lived in fear and misery.



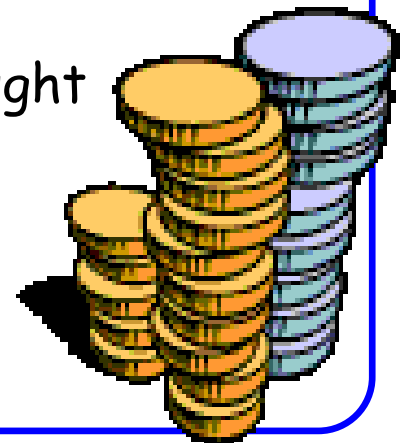
Period: 1420



Living Score: 5.0

Low population meant there were not enough workers so lords had to pay higher wages to get people to work for them.

Higher wages bought better homes, more clothing, a better diet.



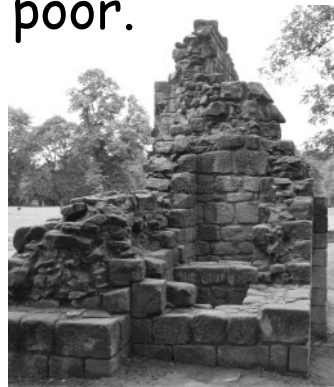
Period: **1550s**



Living Score: **1.7**

Bad harvests and disease killed 20% of the people.

Henry VIII had closed the monasteries so there was little help for the poor.



Period: **1560s**



Living Score: **4.0**

Better harvests meant that food prices fell so people could afford more food - but there wasn't enough work for everyone because the population was rising.



Period: **1590s**



Living Score: **1.5**

A terrible series of harvests and bad winters caused great hardships and many deaths.

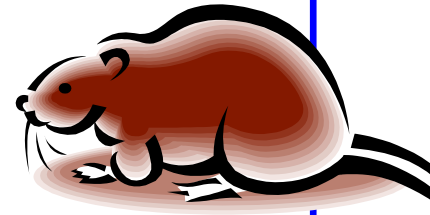


Period: **1620s**



Living Score: **4.2**

There were still epidemics of plague and food prices depended on how good harvests were.



Some people could afford new foods from overseas.

Period: 1640s



Living Score: 4.0

The Civil War had caused great misery and many deaths from diseases spread by armies and in sieges.

Period: 1710s



Living Score: 4.8

There was more trade overseas, helping merchants and some workers to become richer.



But bad harvests and outbreaks of diseases could still cause great hardships - and there was no help from the government.

Period: 1760s



Living Score: 5.0

Improvements in farming produced more food but at the same time changes in farming methods meant that people were losing their jobs.

Period: 1790s



Living Score: 4.5

The development of machinery was making some people wealthier but many others were losing jobs or having wages cut. More people were living in poor housing in towns.

Period: 1820s



Living Score: 4.0

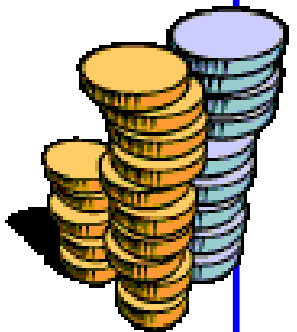
Living conditions in many industrial towns were appalling with poor sanitation, dirty water and diseases spreading rapidly.

Period: 1850s



Living Score: 5.0

Worldwide trade was making Britain more prosperous. Railways were starting to bring fresh food into towns but governments were only just beginning to intervene to improve lives.



Period: 1880s



Living Score: 5.8

Governments were becoming more involved in helping to improve people's lives. Towns were cleaner with better water supplies and sewerage.

Medical improvements such as anaesthetics and antiseptics were starting to save lives.



Period: 1910s



Living Score: 6.5

Average life expectancy was creeping above 50 for the first time in history.



Governments now helped the elderly and sick but people still had to pay to see the doctor.

Period: 1930s



Living Score: 6.0

There was widespread unemployment in some parts of the country because of worldwide trade problems. Protestors went on marches to demand help from the governments.

Period: 1950s



Living Score: 7.5

After World War Two medical help was free for the first time. There were plenty of jobs and many families bought televisions and refrigerators.

Period: 1970s



Living Score: 8.0

Central heating was making houses more comfortable, many people had cars and foreign holidays, and life expectancy was around 70.



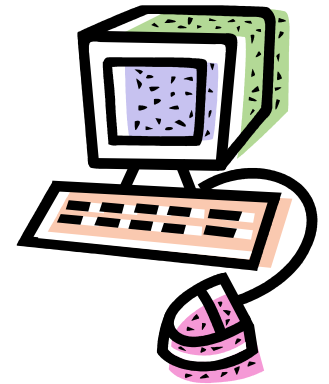
But prices kept going up, partly because of the cost of fuels such as oil.

Period: 1990s



Living Score: 8.5

Technology was changing lives with computers becoming widely used at work and in houses.



Living standards were higher than ever before.

Standard of Living

Good to be alive

Living Score

8

6

4

2

Life's a struggle

1200

1400

1600

1800

2000

Period

