

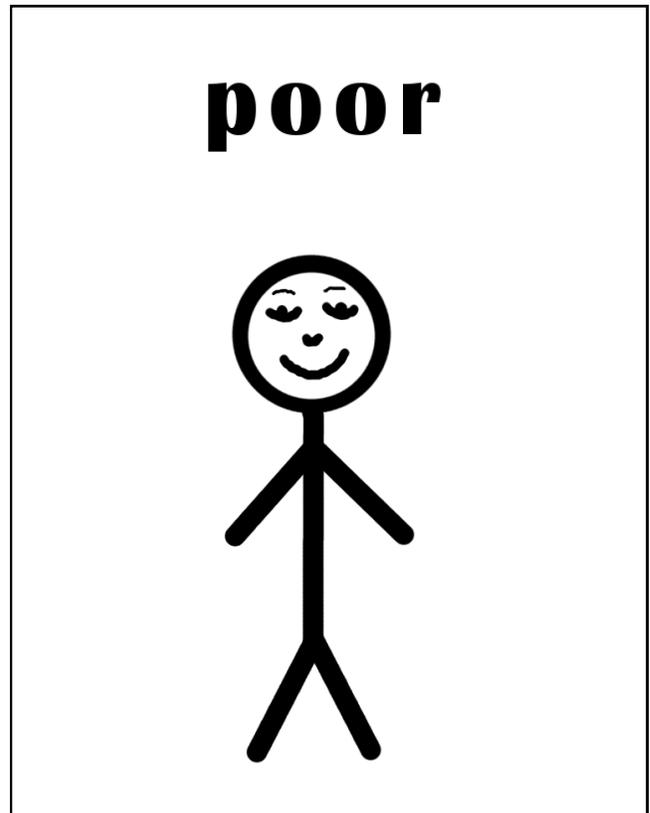
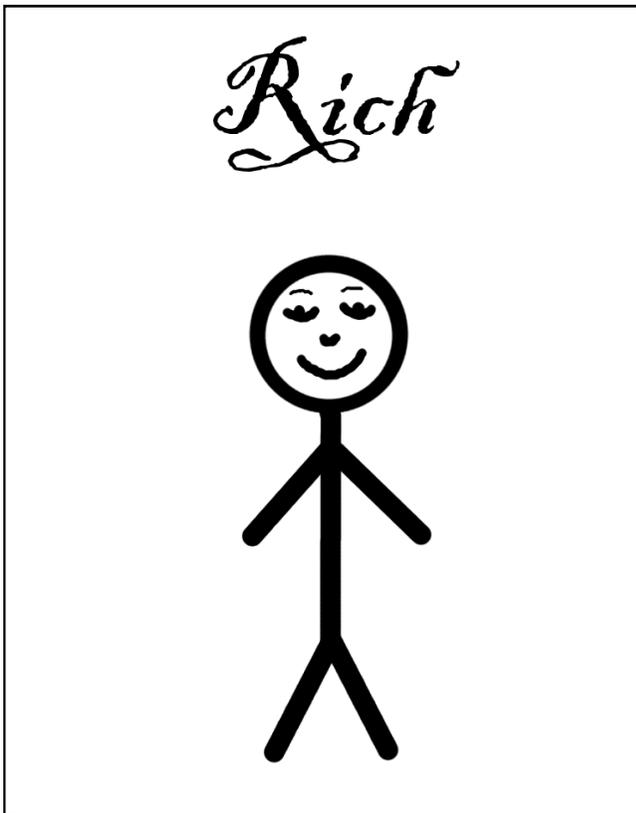
Rich and **poor**

Avoncroft
Museum



Follow the trail around the museum to learn about what it was like to be rich and poor in the past.
Start at the Earth Closet.

At each place you will be given a piece of clothing to draw onto your people below.



Which would you have rather been - rich or poor?
Why?

Earth Closet

The Earth Closet was an outside toilet owned by very rich people. Only rich people could afford fancy brick outside toilets like this.

Draw a pair of shoes on your rich person.

It was a toilet, but water didn't flush everything away like it does in our toilets today. It was someone's job to clean out the toilets. He would have been called the "night soil man" because they cleaned out the toilets at night.

Draw a shirt on your poor person.

Now head to the Dovecote...

Dovecote

Rich people kept doves so that they had a constant supply of food. The doves would be served up at banquets and posh parties.

Draw a pair of trousers on your rich person.

Although the rich people paid for the keeping of the doves, they employed poorer people to look after the doves. People who looked after the doves would have to clean them out and catch one when the richer people wanted to eat one.

Draw a hat on your poor person.

Now head to the Merchant's House...

Merchant's House

The people who lived in this house when it was built were quite wealthy merchants who sold dyed fabrics. For the time when it was built, it was a big, luxury house.

Draw a hat on your rich person.

The merchant and his family would have kept servants to wait on them. The people who worked in the dye industry would not have been very rich either.

Draw a pair of trousers on your poor person.

Now head to the Anderson Shelter...

Anderson Shelter

Enemy bombs were a danger to everyone, whether they were rich or poor. Everyone with a garden could have an Anderson Shelter like this one. If you didn't earn a lot, you got it for free from the government. If you earned more than a certain amount, you had to pay for it.

Draw a shirt on your rich person.

People whose houses were too small to have gardens had nowhere to put a shelter like this. If an air-raid happened, they had to go to the public shelters.

Draw some shoes on your poor person.

Now head to the Decorative Chimneys...

Decorative Chimneys

Chimneys like these would have been found on the roof of a big, expensive house. They have decorative brickwork to show off how much money the owners have.

Draw a feather in the hat of your rich person.

The chimneys were cleaned by chimney sweeps. Often, the chimney sweeps were children from poor families. They were forced to go out and work when they were very young so that their family could afford food. Being a chimney sweep wasn't a nice job. It was cramped and full of soot in the chimneys.

Draw a bag on your poor person.

Now head to the Ice House...

Ice House

Before freezers were invented, people didn't keep ice in the house because there was no way to keep it cold. If you were very rich you would have an ice house like this to store ice in. Being underground kept the ice frozen.

Draw a necklace on your rich person.

Poor people worked as servants on large estates that owned these ice houses. They would have to climb down into the hole to fetch the ice for the rich people to use at their dinner parties.

Draw some hair on your poor person.

Now head to the Showman's Wagon...

Showman's Wagon

The wagon might look small, but have a look inside. As you can see from the very elaborate and expensive decoration, this was a home only a rich person could own. It was owned by the 'showman', the person who ran the fairground in Victorian times.

Draw some hair on your rich person.

Although they were rich, they didn't have a lot of space to live in. Eight people would have lived in this wagon at once! Even so, it was the nicest place to live of anyone who worked with a travelling fair.

Draw a cloak on your poor person.

Now head to the Cell Block...

Cell Block

Not many rich people ended up in a prison like this one. But everyone who did got the same treatment. These cells are not a comfortable place to spend the night!

Draw a watch on your rich person.

Most people who were arrested in Victorian times were caught stealing. Picking pockets was a way that a lot of people, especially children, tried to make a living.

Draw a dirty face and hands on your poor person.

Congratulations, you've finished!