

Thomas John Barnardo

Thomas John Barnardo was best known by the name Dr Barnardo. He founded the British charity Barnardo's to provide care for **vulnerable** children and young people.

Early Life

Thomas John Barnardo was born in Dublin, Ireland, on 4th July 1845. He was the fourth of five children born to John Michaelis Barnardo, a **furrier**, and his second wife Abigail.

In 1866, Thomas Barnardo left Ireland to move to London to study at London Hospital to become a doctor. However, when he arrived in London, he was so shocked by what he saw that he desperately wanted to help – there were children across the city living in terrible conditions. Due to a deadly disease (cholera) spreading through the East End of the city, many children became orphans and ended up living on the streets. Sadly, lots of children did not make it to their fifth birthday.



Ragged Schools

Despite his name, Dr Barnardo stopped training to become a doctor and never achieved his qualifications because he was so moved to help the children of London to have better lives. His first step was in 1867 when he set up a ragged school, which was an independent school giving free education, food, clothes and homes to children who were too poor to pay.

One of the pupils at Dr Barnardo's first ragged school was called Jim Jarvis. One evening, Jim took Dr Barnardo for a walk around the East End of London, showing him all of the children who slept on the street, often on roofs or in gutters. Dr Barnardo was so upset by what he saw that he gave up his dream of becoming a doctor to give his life to helping poor children.

Stepney Causeway

In 1870, Dr Barnardo started his charity, which was known as Dr Barnardo's Homes, and opened his first orphanage for boys at 18 Stepney Causeway, London. At night, Dr Barnardo would walk the streets of London looking for boys who needed somewhere to stay. To begin with, only a certain number of boys could stay at the orphanage each night but Dr Barnardo was not happy with this. Although most Victorians saw poverty as shameful, Dr Barnardo accepted all boys; he believed that every child deserved the best possible start in life, whatever their background. As well as providing a home for the boys, Dr Barnardo also trained them in carpentry, metalwork and shoemaking.

Barkingside

Following his marriage in 1873 to Sara Louise Elmslie, who was known as Syrie, they were given a piece of land to live on in Barkingside, east London. Instead, they used this land to open the Girls' Village Home where needy girls were looked after in small, family-style groups with a house 'mother'. By 1900, there were 65 cottages, a school, a hospital and a church on the land which housed over 1,500 girls. They also learnt skills, such as how to look after a home, and were kept safe.

Impact

During his lifetime, Dr Barnardo and his charity opened 96 homes to look after vulnerable children and young people. From the creation of the first Barnardo's home in 1867 to his death in 1905, more than 8,500 children had been taken in. He also raised a lot of money to help children to stay with their families when times were difficult. Dr Barnardo's dream of giving every child the best possible future is continued by his charity to this day.

Glossary

furrier: Someone who makes clothes or items, such as rugs, from animal fur.

vulnerable: In need of special care or support.

Questions

1. When was Thomas John Barnardo born? Tick **one**.

- ☐ 4th July 1845
☐ 4th June 1866
☐ 4th January 1867
☐ 4th May 1870

2. Match the place to its relevance.

Dublin
Stepney Causeway
Barkingside

Dr Barnardo opened the Girls' Village Home here.

Dr Barnardo was born here.

Dr Barnardo opened his first orphanage for boys here.

3. List two things that ragged schools gave to needy boys.

- _____
- _____

4. Who took Dr Barnardo for a walk around the East End of London?

5. Find and copy a word or phrase from the 'Stepney Causeway' section which tells you that Dr Barnardo wanted to help all children.

6. Why do you think that Dr Barnardo trained the boys in carpentry, metalwork and shoemaking?

7. Explain why **lots of children didn't make it to their fifth birthday**.

8. Summarise Dr Barnardo's impact on the lives of young people in 30 words or fewer.

Answers

1. When was Thomas John Barnardo born? Tick **one**.

- ☒ **4th July 1845**
☐ 4th June 1866
☐ 4th January 1867
☐ 4th May 1870

2. Match the place to its relevance.

Dublin	Dr Barnardo opened the Girls' Village Home here.
Stepney Causeway	Dr Barnardo was born here.
Barkingside	Dr Barnardo opened his first orphanage for boys here.

3. List two things that ragged schools gave to needy boys.

Accept any two of the following: free education; food; clothes; homes/shelter.

4. Who took Dr Barnardo for a walk around the East End of London?

Jim Jarvis took Dr Barnardo for a walk around the East End of London.

5. Find and copy a word or phrase from the 'Stepney Causeway' section which tells you that Dr Barnardo wanted to help all children.

(Dr Barnardo) accepted (all boys)

6. Why do you think that Dr Barnardo trained the boys in carpentry, metalwork and shoemaking?

Pupils' own responses, such as: These boys came from poor backgrounds, often with no family, so it was important for them to learn a trade so that they could get a job when they were adults.

7. Explain why **lots of children didn't make it to their fifth birthday**.

Pupils' own responses, such as: There was a deadly disease called cholera that was spreading through the East End of London – this would have meant that lots of children died.

8. Summarise Dr Barnardo's impact on the lives of young people in 30 words or fewer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: From 1867 to 1905, Dr Barnardo opened 96 homes looking after more than 8,500 children; he also raised money to help children to stay with their families during difficult times.

Thomas John Barnardo

Best known by the name Dr Barnardo, Thomas John Barnardo founded the British charity Barnardo's to provide care for **vulnerable** children and young people.

Early Life

Born in Dublin, Ireland, on 4th July 1845, Thomas John Barnardo was the fourth of five children born to John Michaelis Barnardo, a **furrier**, and his second wife Abigail.



In 1866, Thomas Barnardo left Ireland to move to London where he planned to study at London Hospital to become a doctor. However, when he arrived in London, he was so appalled by what he saw that he desperately wanted to help – there were children across the city living in terrible conditions. Due to a deadly disease (cholera) spreading through the East End of the city, many children became orphans, resulting in them living on the streets. Unfortunately, many children did not make it to their fifth birthday.

Ragged Schools

Despite his name, Dr Barnardo stopped training to become a doctor and never achieved his qualifications because he was so moved to help the children of London to have better lives. His first step was in 1867 when he set up a ragged school, which was an independent school giving free education, food, clothes and homes to impoverished children – these children were too poor to pay for education as was the norm during the Victorian era.

One of the first pupils at Dr Barnardo's first ragged school, Jim Jarvis, took Dr Barnardo for a walk around the East End of London one evening, showing him all of the children who slept on the street, often on roofs or in gutters. Feeling distressed by the sights, Dr Barnardo decided to give up his dream of becoming a doctor; he chose to devote his life to helping poor children.

Homes for Vulnerable Children

In 1870, Dr Barnardo started his charity, which was known as Dr Barnardo's Homes, and opened his first orphanage for vulnerable boys at 18 Stepney Causeway, London. At night, Dr Barnardo would walk the streets of London looking for homeless boys who needed somewhere to stay. It upset Dr Barnardo greatly when, initially, he could only help a certain number of boys and he vowed to help all children. Although most Victorians saw poverty as shameful, Dr Barnardo accepted all children; he believed that every child deserved the best possible start in life, whatever their background. As well as providing a home for the boys, Dr Barnardo also trained them in carpentry, metalwork and shoemaking.

Following his marriage in 1873 to Sara Louise Elmslie, who was known as Syrie, Dr Barnardo began to help girls too; Syrie desired to support disadvantaged girls.

As a wedding present, they were given a piece of land to live on in Barkingside, east London but instead of building a home for themselves on this land, they opened the Girls' Village Home. Needy girls were looked after in small, family-style groups with a house 'mother' who taught them the skills of looking after a home whilst keeping them safe. By 1900, there were 65 cottages, a school, a hospital and a church on the land which housed over 1,500 girls.

Legacy

During his lifetime, Dr Barnardo and his charity opened 96 homes to look after vulnerable children and young people. From the foundation of the first Barnardo's home in 1867 to his death in 1905, more than 8,500 children had been taken in. He also raised a lot of money to help children to stay with their families when times were difficult. Dr Barnardo's dream of giving every child the best possible future is continued by his charity to this day.

Glossary

furrier: Someone who makes clothes or items, such as rugs, from animal fur.

vulnerable: In need of special care or support.

Questions

1. What was the name of one of the first pupils at Dr Barnardo's first ragged school?
Tick **one**.

- ☐ John Michaelis
☐ Abigail
☐ Jim Jarvis
☐ Sara Louise Elmslie

2. Match the fact to the section of the text.

Dr Barnardo decided to give up his dream of becoming a doctor.
From 1867 to 1905, more than 8,500 children had been taken in to 96 schools.
In 1873, Dr Barnardo married Sara Louise Elmslie.

Home for Vulnerable Children
Ragged Schools
Legacy

3. Find and copy **two** words from the 'Homes for Vulnerable Children' section which have similar meanings to **vulnerable**.

- _____
- _____

4. Fill in the missing words from this sentence:

Due to the deadly disease (_____) spreading through the East End of _____,
 many children became _____, resulting in them living on the streets.

5. What skills were the boys at Stepney Causeway taught?

- _____
- _____
- _____

6. Why did Dr Barnardo start his first ragged school?

7. Why do you think that girls were taught how to look after a home by a house 'mother'?

Give **two** reasons.

8. How would Dr Barnardo's parents have felt when he stopped training to become a doctor?

9. In your opinion, what is the most important thing that Dr Barnardo did? Explain your choice.

Answers

1. What was the name of one of the first pupils at Dr Barnardo's first ragged school?
Tick **one**.

- ☐ John Michaelis
☐ Abigail
☒ **Jim Jarvis**
☐ Sara Louise Elmslie

2. Match the fact to the section of the text.

Dr Barnardo decided to give up his dream of becoming a doctor.	Home for Vulnerable Children
From 1867 to 1905, more than 8,500 children had been taken in to 96 schools.	Ragged Schools
In 1873, Dr Barnardo married Sara Louise Elmslie.	Legacy

3. Find and copy **two** words from the 'Homes for Vulnerable Children' section which have similar meanings to **vulnerable**.

disadvantaged
needy

4. Fill in the missing words from this sentence:

Due to the deadly disease (**cholera**) spreading through the East End of **the city**, many children became **orphans**, resulting in them living on the streets.

5. What skills were the boys at Stepney Causeway taught?

carpentry
metalwork
shoemaking

6. Why did Dr Barnardo start his first ragged school?

Pupils' own responses, such as: Due to the awful things that he had seen, Dr Barnardo was so moved to help the vulnerable children of London that he stopped training to be a doctor and set up his first ragged school.

7. Why do you think that girls were taught how to look after a home by a house 'mother'?

Give **two** reasons.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Due to cholera, many of the girls' parents had died so it was important to provide them with positive role models; in the Victorian times, many women looked after the home while their husbands went out to work.

8. How would Dr Barnardo's parents have felt when he stopped training to become a doctor?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think they would have had mixed feelings – they would have been a bit disappointed that he was not fulfilling his dream of becoming a doctor but would have been proud that he wanted to do something to help disadvantaged people.

9. In your opinion, what is the most important thing that Dr Barnardo did? Explain your choice

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that raising money to help children to stay with their families was the most important thing that Dr Barnardo did because it is best to keep families together when possible.

Thomas John Barnardo

Best known by the name Dr Barnardo, Thomas John Barnardo founded the British charity Barnardo's to provide care for vulnerable children and young people.

Born in Dublin, Ireland, on 4th July 1845, Thomas John Barnardo was the fourth of five children born to John Michaelis Barnardo, a furrier (someone who makes clothes or items, such as rugs, from animal fur) and his second wife Abigail.



In 1866, Thomas Barnardo left Ireland to move to London where he planned to study at London Hospital to become a doctor. However, when he arrived in London, he was so appalled by the amount of children that he saw living in terrible conditions that he desperately wanted to help. A deadly disease, cholera, was spreading through the East End of the city due to a lack of clean water and basic hygiene; in the Victorian times, less was known about the need for cleanliness and good hygiene. This fatal disease meant that many children from underprivileged families became orphans; this caused many of them to become homeless and end up living on the streets. Unfortunately, many children did not make it to their fifth birthday.

Ragged Schools

Despite his name, Dr Barnardo stopped training to become a doctor therefore not achieving his qualifications, due to his enthusiasm to help the children of London to experience more positive lives. His initial step was in 1867 when he set up a ragged school, which was an independent school providing free education, food, clothes and homes to impoverished children – these children were too poor to pay for education, as was the norm during the Victorian era.

One of the original pupils at Dr Barnardo's first ragged school, Jim Jarvis, took Dr Barnardo for a walk around the East End of London one evening, showing him the high quantity of children who slept on the street, often on roofs or in gutters. What he witnessed affected him so much, making him feel very distressed, that Dr Barnardo decided to give up his dream of becoming a doctor, choosing instead to devote his life to helping disadvantaged children.

Homes for Vulnerable Children

In 1870, Dr Barnardo started his charity, which was known as Dr Barnardo's Homes, to help as many poor children in London as possible. He opened his first orphanage for vulnerable boys at 18 Stepney Causeway, London and spent the nights walking the streets of London looking for homeless boys who needed somewhere to stay. It upset Dr Barnardo greatly when, initially, he could only help a certain number of boys; he vowed to help all children, believing (unlike the majority of Victorians who saw poverty as shameful) that every child deserved the best possible start in life, whatever their background. As well as providing a home for the boys, Dr Barnardo also trained them in carpentry, metalwork and shoemaking and found apprenticeships for them to give them a future career.

Following his marriage in 1873 to Sara Louise Elmslie, who was known as Syrie, Dr Barnardo began to help vulnerable girls too. As a wedding present, they were given a piece of land to live on in Barkingside, east London but, due to Syrie's desire to support disadvantaged girls, they opened the Girls' Village Home on the land instead of building a home for themselves. Needy girls were looked after in small, family-style groups with a house 'mother' who taught them the skills of looking after a home while keeping them safe. By 1900, there were 65 cottages, a school, a hospital and a church on the land which housed over 1,500 girls.

Legacy

During his lifetime, Dr Barnardo and his charity opened 96 homes to look after vulnerable children and young people. From the foundation of the first Barnardo's home in 1867 to his death in 1905, more than 8,500 children had been taken in, including children with physical and learning difficulties. Dr Barnardo's experience of raising his own daughter Marjorie, who had Down's syndrome, influenced his desire to accept and care for all children. He also raised a lot of money to help children to stay with their families when times were difficult. Dr Barnardo's dream of giving every child the best possible future is continued by his charity to this day.

Questions

1. **Thomas John Barnardo founded the British charity Barnardo's to provide care for vulnerable children and young people.**

What does **vulnerable** mean? Tick **one**.

- ☐ safe and secure
- ☐ unsafe and needy
- ☐ safe and strong
- ☐ unsafe and lonely

2. What was Dr Barnardo's dream? Tick **one**.

- ☐ To give every child a home.
- ☐ To give every child the best possible future.
- ☐ To give every child an education.
- ☐ To give every child a family.

3. **... he was so appalled by the amount of children that he saw living across the city in terrible conditions...**

What does **appalled** mean?

4. List **three** things that Dr Barnardo set up in order to help vulnerable children.

- ---
- ---
- ---

5. Find and copy a word from the text which shows that Syrie's **ambition** was to help disadvantaged girls.

6. How did education in the UK in Victorian times differ to education today?

7. Summarise what you have read about the Girls' Village Home in 40 words or fewer.

8. How did Jim Jarvis affect Dr Barnardo?

9. How did Dr Barnardo's daughter influence his view on looking after children?

10. Why do you think that the charity Barnardo's continues to this day? Explain your answer.

Questions

1. **Thomas John Barnardo founded the British charity Barnardo's to provide care for vulnerable children and young people.**

What does **vulnerable** mean? Tick **one**.

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2. What was Dr Barnardo's dream? Tick **one**.

- ☐ To give every child a home.
☒ **To give every child the best possible future.**
☐ To give every child an education.
☐ To give every child a family.

3. **... he was so appalled by the amount of children that he saw living across the city in terrible conditions...**

What does **appalled** mean?

Appalled means greatly dismayed or horrified.

4. List **three** things that Dr Barnardo set up in order to help vulnerable children.

Accept any three of the following: ragged schools; orphanage for vulnerable boys (at 18 Stepney Causeway); the Girls' Village Home; Barnardo's charity.

5. Find and copy a word from the text which shows that Syrie's **ambition** was to help disadvantaged girls.

desire

6. How did education in the UK in Victorian times differ to education today?

Pupils' own responses, such as: During the Victorian times people had to pay for education, which meant that poorer children often did not receive an education; today education is free so all children are able to attend school.

7. Summarise what you have read about the Girls' Village Home in 40 words or fewer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Vulnerable girls lived in small, family-style groups with a house 'mother' who kept them safe and taught them home-making skills; in 1900 there were 65 cottages, a school, a hospital and a church for over 1,500 girls.

8. How did Jim Jarvis affect Dr Barnardo?

Pupils' own responses, such as: By showing Dr Barnardo the amount of children who slept on the streets, Jim Jarvis affected Dr Barnardo by making him feel distressed and therefore more determined to help these children.

9. How did Dr Barnardo's daughter influence his view on looking after children?

Pupils' own responses, such as: Dr Barnardo's daughter, Marjorie, had Downs syndrome so his experience of looking after her influenced his decision to want to care for all children, including those with physical and learning difficulties.

10. Why do you think that the charity Barnardo's continues to this day? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the charity continues because there are still vulnerable children in the UK; it raises money to help these children to have better lives at home where possible.