



NEWS DETECTIVES

TODAY'S NEWS STORY

The intriguing jobs that no longer exist



KEYWORDS

- Obsolete:**
No longer working
- Snuff:**
Put out, cut off the air
- Profit:** The money a business makes
- Dredge:** Drag up from underwater

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Humans have always had to work, but they haven't always had jobs. The earliest records we have of people being paid to work are from about 5,000 years ago. One early form of payment was salt. The word salary, meaning pay, comes from the Roman word for salt.

Records in the British Newspaper Archive offer a snapshot of some vanished careers.

As tech bosses debate whether AI will make some jobs **obsolete**, here are a few of the fascinating things we used to do for a living.

Snuffed out

It used to take 25,000 people to light London's lamps. Now lamplighters are all but extinct. But a few still turn up at dusk to light the historic gas lamps

at Buckingham Palace, and then again at dawn to **snuff** them out.

Knocker up

Before alarm clocks, we had knocker ups. Someone would come to your door and wake you up to make sure you weren't late. No snooze button back then!

Rag and bone man

Before recycling, people sold their old clothes to the rag and bone man, who would collect rubbish and hope to sell it on for a **profit**.

Crossing sweeper

Back before tarmac, and when horse droppings were a common sight on the roads, a crossing sweeper would clean the street for a small fee.

Mudlark

Meanwhile mudlarks would **dredge** the rivers, looking for rubbish worth saving from the water.

Chimney sweep

And when everyone had a coal fire, chimney sweeps would climb up them to clean. This was a hard job, and like many back then, it was done by children!



INVESTIGATION OF THE DAY

ARE TODAY'S CAREERS BETTER THAN YESTERDAY'S?

1 CHECK YOUR FACTS

Make sure you have all the facts before you start your investigation. Can you answer these questions?

WHAT
did a
mudlark do?

WHO
worked as
chimney
sweeps?

WHERE
might you still
find a gas lamp
in London?

WHEN
did people
need knocker
ups?

WHY
don't people need
chimney sweeps
anymore?

HOW
many people used
to be lamplighters
in London?

2 KNOW YOUR KEYWORDS

Can you remember what these keywords mean? Match the word to the correct meaning.

1=C	2=	3=	4=
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1. Obsolete

2. Snuff

3. Profit

4. Dredge

A. The money a business makes

B. Drag up from underwater

C. No longer working

D. Put out, cut off the air

3 LOOK AT ALL SIDES

There's always more than one side to every story. How might the people involved feel about the story?

People whose jobs are in danger

People with no job

People whose ancestors worked one of these jobs

People working in tech

Happy

Sad

Calm

Excited

Surprised

Angry

Scared

Bored

Disgusted

Confused

4 DISCUSS THE QUESTION

Are today's careers better than yesterday's?

What do you think? Use the speaking prompts here to help you get started.

I disagree with...

I agree with...

I'm not sure about...

I'd like to know more about...

I think that...

I don't think that...



5 REPORT BACK

Write, present or record a report that communicates your view. Share this with your class, family and friends. What's their opinion?