

8

The Woman's Place

In Parts 2 and 4 you found out that the great changes brought about by the Industrial Revolution destroyed some traditional jobs and created many new ones. These changes affected the work done by women as well as by men. They also caused people to argue about whether or not women should work and, if so, what jobs they should do. In Part 8 you will look into some of these arguments and explore some of the attitudes to women that they reveal.

The 'perfect lady'

SOURCE 1



'Fact and Fiction; or Ye Bonny Fishwives of Scarborough and their Imitators', a cartoon for *Punch* drawn by George du Maurier in 1871.

activity

1 Look at source 1. Which group of women do you think the cartoonist prefers? Give your reasons.

During the nineteenth century, women lived in two different worlds (source 1). In one world were upper-class and middle-class women who were expected to live a life of leisure and to do no paid work. In the other world were working-class women who had to work whether they wanted to or not.

In the past, middle-class women had helped their husbands to run houses, estates and businesses. Some ran businesses on their own or took over when their husbands died.