



The Victorians

The Victorian period is named after Queen Victoria who **reigned** over Britain and a world **Empire** from her **coronation** in 1837 to her death in 1901 – 64 years. Life in Victorian England was very different to today. It was a time of great **wealth** and **poverty**, as well as **invention** and scientific discovery.

St Agnes C.E. Primary School

Timeline

- 1837 – Queen Victoria crowned (aged 18 years).
- 1840 – Queen marries her cousin, Prince Albert.
- 1840 – first ragged schools set up.
- 1844 – factory act states children could start work from age 8 but had to have 2 hours schooling daily.
- 1847 – factory act states women and children under 18 could only work 10 hours or less daily.
- 1851 – Great Exhibition.
- 1861 – Prince Albert dies.
- 1863 – first underground railway opens in London.
- 1867 – all factory workers limited to 10 hours work daily.
- 1870 – Dr Barnardo opens first home for boys.
- 1871 – first FA cup for football.
- 1877 – Queen declared 'Empress of India'.
- 1880 – Children 5-13 required to attend school (but had to pay).
- 1882 – first electric power station in London.
- 1891 – education made free and compulsory for children 5-13.
- 1897 – Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee (50 years on the throne).
- 1901 – Queen Victoria dies.



Which of the events above does this building relate to?

Key People Quiz:

What contribution did these people make to the Victorian period? Find out at home and earn Dojos!

Alexander Graham Bell

Charles Babbage

Charles Darwin

Charles Dickens

Dr Barnardo

Florence Nightingale

Isambard Kingdom-Brunel

Joseph Lister

Lewis Carroll

Lord Shaftsbury

Louis Pasteur

Mary Seacole

Thomas Cook

William Morris

Key Vocabulary

| | |
|------------------|---|
| board school | school set up by the Board of Education using money given by the government. |
| British Empire | lands that Britain controlled all over the world (for example, India). |
| census | a count of all the people in the country on a particular day. |
| compulsory | having to do something (for example, going to school). |
| coronation | the formal service of a making a person king or queen of a country. |
| crime | actions which break the law of a country. Many things were crimes in Victorian times with harsh punishments, even for children. |
| disease | illnesses, many of which were very dangerous (for example, cholera, smallpox and typhoid). |
| domestic service | to do household work such as cleaning and cooking in someone else's house. |
| drill | exercises which school children were often made to do in the classroom. |
| estate | area of land owned by one person or family. |
| factory acts | laws passed by government to protect people working in dangerous factories (particularly women and children). |
| government | people chosen by the country to pass laws and run the country. |
| hygiene | cleanliness needed to keep healthy. |
| industrialized | where heavy mechanised or factory industries, like mining and cloth making, have been widely developed. |
| laws | rules passed by government which people living in a country have to abide by. |
| leisure | holidays and other fun activities which people do when they are not working. |
| middle class | the middle of the Victorian class system, including lawyers earning £500 per year to a small shopkeeper earning £100 per year. |
| mill | factory that makes cloth. |
| mines | underground areas where people worked digging out coal and other minerals. |
| Parliament | the House of Lords and the House of Commons who meet to advise the queen. |
| paupers | very poor people who have no way of feeding or supporting themselves. |
| population | people who live in a particular place. |
| poverty | people living in poverty do not have enough money to feed or clothe themselves. |
| public health | the health of people living in a particular place, often looked after by the government. |
| ragged schools | a school set up to teach poor children. |
| reformer | a person who makes changes in order to improve things. |
| reign | the length of time a king or queen rules a country. |
| rural | living in the country. |
| shelter | a place which offers protection (for example, from the weather). |
| slum | poorest, most overcrowded and uncared for part of a town or city. |
| transport | ways of travelling around, including roads, railways, undergrounds, and ships. Railways expanded hugely under the Victorians. |
| trap | a wooden door which was opened and closed to allow fresh air into mines. |
| upper class | wealthy people, often estate owners, who had a lot of money and servants. |
| urban | living in a town or city. |
| wakes week | annual week's holiday given to factory workers in summer. |
| wealthy | having a lot of money, land and/or possessions. |
| workhouse | places set up by the government where poor people with no money could go and be given a bed, food and work. Many had very harsh rules. |
| working class | the bottom of the Victorian class system. A working class man could be anyone from a skilled mechanic earning £90 a year to a servant earning £10 per year. |

Websites to explore



Crumbs! Did you know.....

- the first public toilets were used at the Great Exhibition. They cost one penny to use hence the term 'spend a penny'?
- classes in Victorian England sometimes had over 100 children?