



The Victorians



1837	1838	1840	1854-1856	1864	1870	1878	1888	1901
William IV dies and Victoria becomes Queen	Slavery is abolished in the British Empire	Queen Victoria marries Prince Albert	The Crimean War	It becomes illegal for children to work as chimney sweeps	The Education Act allows children to be schooled	Thomas Edison invents the lightbulb	The Football League starts	Queen Victoria dies

Key Vocabulary

Queen Victoria	The Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland from 20 June 1837 until her death in 1901. Her reign of 63 years and 216 days, which was longer than any of her predecessors, is known as the Victorian era.
Migrate	This is the movement of people from one place to another. In the 18 th and 19 th centuries, large numbers of people in Britain migrated from the countryside to towns and cities, to work in the factories created by the Industrial Revolution.
Industrial revolution	This was a time of huge changes in Britain in the way things were made. People began to realise that coal and steam could be used to power factories and machinery rather than making things by hand.
workhouse	If one had no home they could go to a workhouse to work and get food and clothes. Many died of such hard work.
British Empire	A term used to describe all of the places around the world which were once ruled by Britain.
Penny Farthing	A name for a bicycle which had a large wheel at the front and a smaller one behind. It was named after two coins - the penny and the farthing.
Legislation	A law or group of laws made by people in power. During the Victorian era, a number of laws were passed which protected children.

General Knowledge

Famous Inventions

John Calcott Horsely / Christmas Cards (1843)
 Henry Bessemer / Steel (1854)
 Christopher Sholes / Typewriter (1874)
 Alexander Graham Bell / Telephone (1876) Phonograph (1877)
 Thomas Edison / Lightbulb (1878)



Schools

After the Education Act of 1870 was passed, many schools were built with a focus on reading, writing and arithmetic. Boys and girls were separated with boys learning woodwork whilst girls were taught about housework. They wrote with chalk on slate and schools were very strict. They ensured all children wrote with their right hands and both the cane and a dunce's hat were used as punishments.

Rich and Poor

There was a big difference between rich and poor in Victorian times. Rich people could afford lots of treats like holidays, fancy clothes, and even telephones when they were invented. Poor people - even children - had to work hard in factories, mines (until the Mine Act of 1842) or workhouses. They didn't get paid very much money. Rich people didn't have dangerous jobs like these. In fact, some didn't even have to work! They could afford to buy the new inventions coming out like the telephone, the gramophone (for playing music) and electric light bulbs.

Famous Figures

Queen Victoria (1819-1901)

Queen Victoria married Prince Albert and had 9 children. She created the biggest Empire in history including Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Jamaica and in 1877 she became known as the 'Empress of India'. Britain's laws were made in Parliament but she made all Prime Ministers explain their plans to her. After Prince Albert died in 1861 she entered a permanent state of mourning and wore black for the rest of her life.

Charles Darwin

Wrote 'The Origin of the Species' and came up with the theory of evolution. A controversial idea that humans evolved from apes and were not made as they were by God.



Florence Nightingale (1820-1910)

In charge of nursing during the Crimean War, she saved many lives and continued to improve hospitals afterwards. She received the Royal Red Cross in 1883.