

Knowledge Organiser Year 6 – Autumn 2 2025 (History)

The Victorian Era

This term we will explore the Victorian era. We will gain an understanding of the reign of Queen Victoria in the context of the British Empire, the Industrial Revolution and the development of Britain's monarchy into a constitutional monarchy. We will understand how the Industrial Revolution changed the landscape and lives of the people of England and how for the first time children's rights were considered.

The Victorian Era

- The Victorian Era, which lasted from 1837 to 1901, was a time of many changes in Britain. It is famous for the Industrial Revolution, when machines and factories became really important. Britain became a powerful empire with colonies all around the world. People in the Victorian times cared a lot about being proper and following rules. They also made important discoveries in science and wrote famous books, like Charles Dickens' stories. However, not everyone had a good life. Some people were treated unfairly, and this made others want to make things better for everyone.



Queen Victoria

Queen Victoria

- Queen Victoria, the iconic British monarch of the 19th century, reigned for over six decades from 1837 to 1901. Her reign, known as the Victorian Era, witnessed significant changes and advancements in industry, technology, and the British Empire's expansion across the globe. Queen Victoria's reign also saw the rise of the British Empire as a global superpower.
- Queen Victoria had a strong interest in charity and philanthropy. She actively supported various charities and causes, including those focused on education, healthcare, and welfare for the less fortunate. She set an example for the Victorian society and contributed significantly to the growth of philanthropy and social reform during her reign.

Key Vocabulary

Queen Victoria: Queen Victoria was a famous British monarch of the 19th century, known for her long reign and the Victorian Era.

Prince Albert: Prince Albert was Queen Victoria's husband, who supported her and had interests in art, science, and social issues.

Social Reform: Social reform means making positive changes in society to improve people's lives, often by addressing issues like poverty and inequality.

Public Health: Public health focuses on keeping communities healthy by preventing diseases and providing healthcare services.

Cholera: Cholera is a contagious disease causing severe diarrhoea and was a major health concern in the 19th century.

Key Vocabulary

Parliament: Parliament is a legislative body responsible for making and passing laws.

Factors: In history, "factors" are elements contributing to an event or situation.

Charles Dickens: Charles Dickens was a famous 19th-century English author who wrote novels depicting social issues.

Steam Engine: The steam engine powered the Industrial Revolution using steam for work.

Mass Production: Mass production makes goods in large quantities with standardized processes.

Key Vocabulary

Trade: Trade is buying and selling goods and services between people, regions, or countries.

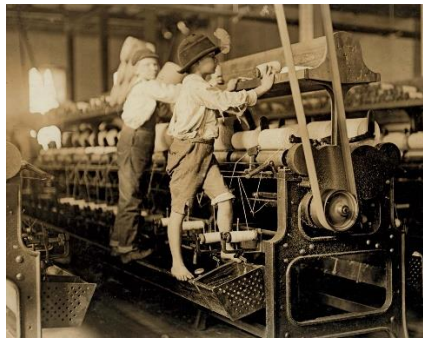
Artisan: An artisan is a skilled craftsperson using traditional techniques.

Primary Source: A primary source is an original document providing first hand historical information.

Secondary Source: A secondary source interprets primary sources, giving context to historical events.

The Industrial Revolution

- Big Changes: The Industrial Revolution changed the way people lived and worked. It made life more convenient with new inventions, but it also led to challenges like long working hours, dangerous workplaces and poor living conditions. It was a time of both progress and problems.
- Machines and Factories: During the Industrial Revolution, new machines and factories were invented. These machines could make things faster and easier than ever before, like clothes and tools. They were powered by the steam engine, which changed all sorts of activities which required manual labour before. It also allowed people to travel and transport goods far more quickly and efficiently.
- Urbanisation: Many people moved from the countryside to cities to work in factories. This was called urbanisation. Cities grew bigger, but living conditions for workers were often crowded and not very good. Places called 'slums' formed, which were areas with terrible sanitation and living conditions.



Young children working in dangerous factory conditions

Living Conditions in Victorian Britain

- Crowded Cities: In Victorian England, many people moved to cities to work in factories. This led to overcrowded cities with small, cramped houses and apartments. Often, several families would live in one house, sharing limited space.
- Poor Sanitation: Sanitation, or cleanliness, was a big problem. There were no proper sewage systems, so waste often ended up in the streets, leading to dirty and unsanitary conditions. This lack of hygiene contributed to the spread of diseases like cholera.
- Child Labour: During this time, children were often forced to work long hours in factories and mines, sometimes in dangerous conditions. They didn't have access to proper education, and their lives were tough and challenging.



The river Thames was incredibly polluted during the Victorian era. It stank and was filled with sewage.

TASK

During our topic on the Victorian era, we are going to learn about many key historical events and laws.

Your task will be to independently research and create a piece of learning on one of the following topics:

- The Great Stink of August 1858
- The slums of Victorian Britain
- The Factory Act of 1833
- The invention of the Steam engine
- Queen Victoria's involvement in charity

What can my learning look like?

- A fact file
- A diorama
- A pretend newspaper report from the past