

Life for Victorians

'The Victorian era' describes the time during which Queen Victoria reigned in Britain (1837-1901). Queen Victoria was only 18 years old when she became queen and she ruled Britain for 64 years.

During this time in history, there was a great contrast between the ways in which the rich and poor lived, and many developments took place which changed the lives of the people in Britain.

Going to School

- In the early Victorian period, only rich boys went to school.
- Poorer boys would be expected to begin working to support the family from a very early age. Girls were not educated but learned to look after the home or serve richer families.
- Both the teachers and children wrote with chalk or slate pencils onto a blackboard or slate.
- School punishments were very harsh and could include being struck with a cane or made to stand wearing a 'dunce' hat.
- Learning was done by chanting or copying out facts many times until they had been remembered.
- The most important lessons were the three Rs: reading, writing and arithmetic. Lessons such as music, art or PE were not taught like they are today. Drill was physical exercise performed at the side of the desks in the classroom.

Toys

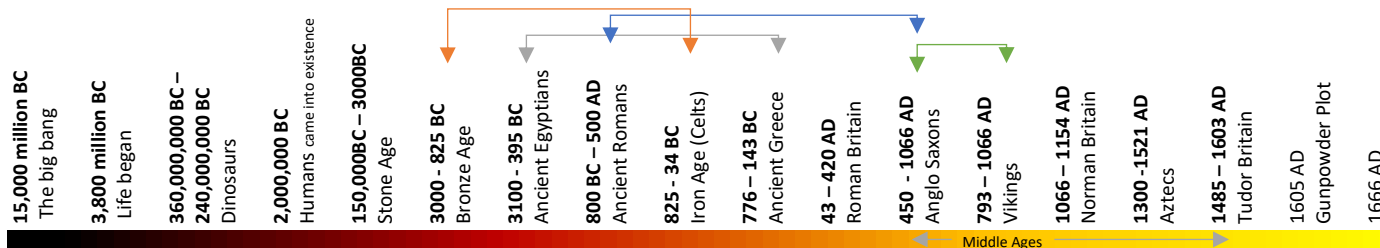
- Children from poorer families would often make their own toys, such as peg dolls.
- Children from wealthy families would have toys such as rocking horses, dolls' houses, or train sets.
- 'Hoop and stick' and skipping were popular outdoor games.

Historical Skills and Enquiry

- I can explain how events from the past have helped shape our lives.
- I can recognise that the lives of wealthy people were very different from those of poor people.
- I can appreciate how items found belonging to the past are helping us to build up an accurate picture of how people lived.
- I can recognise the part that archaeologists have had in helping us understand more about the past.
- I can, through research, identify similarities and differences between given periods in history.



**Queen Victoria
(1837 until 1901)**



What should I already know?

- Life during the great fire of London and what happened
- significant historical events, people and places in their own locality
- changes within living memory. Where appropriate, these should be used to reveal aspects of change in national life

Important Facts

- The Victorians were the people who lived during the reign of Queen Victoria
- New inventions, like the telephone, motorcar, typewriter, bicycle and moving film changed the way that people lived, worked and travelled.
- The boom in industry saw lots of people moving to cities to find work.
- Many resorted to workhouses, which provided basic poor relief like food, medical care and shelter in exchange for labour.
- Victorian children were expected to work long hours and for less money than adults

Southwell workhouse



This is where we are

Vocabulary

British Empire	The British Empire was made up of the colonies controlled by the United Kingdom. It had trading posts set up by England between the late 16th and early 18th centuries.
class	the framework of a society founded by a distinct tradition of hierarchy by birth in the social group and by occupation or tradition of work as a distinct social class.
emigration	is leaving one's country or area to go live in another.
factory	It usually means a building where companies use mass production to make different things.
clothes	protects the human body from the hot sun and high temperatures in warm tropical countries.
Public health	is the science dealing with prevention there is a disease that is a threat to the overall health of a community, as well as with prolonging life
cane	a rod made especially of wood or metal that often has a curved handle and is used to help someone walk
Charles Dickens	Dickens is remembered as one of the most important and influential writers of the 19th century. Among his accomplishments, he has been lauded for providing a stark portrait of the Victorian-era underclass, helping to bring about social change.
The Industrial Revolution	A period of change in the way products were made. During this time many factories were built which began making large numbers of things using machines powered by engines.
transport	ways of travelling around, including roads, railways, undergrounds, and ships. Railways expanded hugely under the Victorians
Queen Victoria	Queen Victoria was the longest reigning British monarch in history. She was queen from 1837 until 1901.
The Victorians	The Victorians lived during the reign of Queen Victoria (1837 to 1901). This was known as the Victorian era.
Workhouse	a place where poor people who want help from the government could go to get accommodation and employment.

Victorian Timeline

1837 – Victoria becomes Queen aged 18.

1840 – Britain claims New Zealand as a colony to head off the French.

1843 – Charles Dickens publishes 'A Christmas Carol.'

1845-1849 – Ireland suffers the Great Potato Famine, causing the deaths of about 800,000 people.

1850 – Workhouses were opened, offering basic food and beds in return for work.

1856 – Britain defeats Russia in the Crimean War.

1861 – Prince Albert dies of typhoid.

1880 – School compulsory for 5-10 year olds

1901 – Queen Victoria dies. Her son, Edward VII, becomes King.