

Children in Victorian Times Knowledge Organiser

The Victorian period is named after Queen Victoria who reigned over Britain and a world Empire from her coronation in 1837 until her death in 1901 – 64 years later. 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.

KEY DATES

1819	Victoria is born
1837	Victoria became Queen, aged 18, and the Houses of Parliament were built
1840	Victoria married Prince Albert and the first postage stamps came into use.
1841	The Great Western Railway from Bristol to London was completed.
1842	The Mines Act stopped children under 10 working in the mines
1844	The Factory Act stopped children between 8 and 13 working more than 6 ½
1850	Workhouses opened to try to help the poorest people
1852	The first public toilet was opened in London
1861	Prince Albert died
1863	The first underground railway opened in London and the Football Association was founded
1864	A law banned boys under 10 from working as chimney sweeps
1870	Schools were provided for children aged 5-10
1876	The telephone was invented
1880	The Education Act made it compulsory for all children aged 5-10 to go to school
1883	The first electric railway
1901	Queen Victoria died

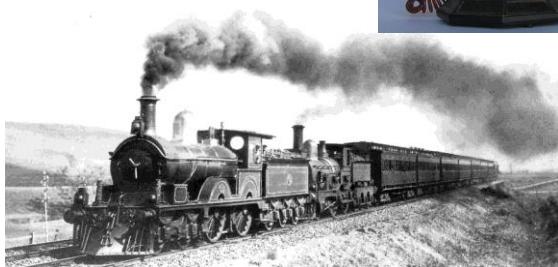


KEY VOCABULARY

Board school	School set up by the Board of Education using money from the government
British Empire	Countries/lands that Britain controlled around the world (e.g. India)
coronation	The formal service where someone is crowned King or Queen
disease	Illnesses, many of which were very dangerous (e.g. cholera, smallpox)
drill	Exercises which school children were often made to do in the classroom
Factory acts	Laws passed by the government to protect people working in dangerous factories (particularly women and children)
government	People chosen by a country's people to pass laws and run the country
hygiene	Cleanliness needed in order to stay healthy
laws	Rules passed by the government which people living in a country have to follow
leisure	Holidays and other fun activities which people do when not at work
mill	Factory that makes cloth
mines	Underground areas where people worked digging out coal and other minerals
paupers	Very poor people who have no way of feeding or supporting themselves
poverty	Being poor and not having enough money for food or clothing
ragged schools	A school set up to teach poor children
reign	The length of time a king or queen rules a country
rural	Countryside areas
transport	Ways of travelling around, including road vehicles, trains and ships
trap	A wooden door which was opened and closed to let fresh air into mines
urban	Town or city areas
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.



Change	Cause	Evidence
How did their lives change during the Victorian era? In the earlier part of the Victorian era it was common for children from poorer families to go out to work in mines, mills, factories, chimneys and domestic service. These jobs were often dangerous and children worked long hours for little money. Gradually laws were passed preventing children from working in certain environments, setting minimum age requirements and restricting the hours that children were allowed to work. During this time, Education Acts made it possible for more children to attend school, eventually making it compulsory for 5-10 year olds by 1880. Was it the same for all children? What impact did wealth or class have on Victorian children? Children from richer families did not go out to work and many were educated by governesses at home, so their lives were very different to working class children. Their lives changed as technology and industry developed throughout the Victorian period with richer families benefitting from inventions such as the telephone, electric lighting, photographs, bicycles and flushing toilets. The completion of the first railway lines allowed families to travel to the coast and enjoy day trips or holidays. Children from wealthy families lived in large houses, ate fine food and had many toys and books to play with; however, they were usually taken care of by nannies and governesses and were expected to be seen and not heard. Working class children lived in small houses, or even single rooms, and played with homemade toys in the little spare time they had. Their food was much more basic and families were large so there was not always much to go around. How have children's lives changed over time? (Compare then and now) Continued advancements in technology, industry, education and society mean that life for children in 2020 is vastly different to that of Victorian children. We will be comparing home, school and family life, including hobbies, toys and leisure time, then and now.	How did education and work laws for children change during Victorian times? And what caused these changes? Jobs done by Victorian children were dangerous, dirty, tiring and poorly paid. Children suffered many accidents, fell ill easily and many lost their lives. During the Victorian period there was a gradual raising of awareness of the poor working conditions that children were subjected to. The government began passing laws to try and improve the situation and make sure children went to school instead. It was not easy because many poorer families relied on the income so continued to send their children out to work.	Why is there more evidence/sources of information about the Victorian times compared to the Fire of London? By the Victorian times, cameras had been invented so there are real photographs of the time. Many more documents, books, artefacts have survived because the Victorian period was relatively recent compared to the Fire of London. Victorian inventions are still all around us. What can we learn from the objects, pictures and other documents? Can you use the sources of evidence to explain how life changed during Victorian times?



Cross-curricular links

Art: The artwork and designs of William Morris

Music: The works of Victorian composers- Edward Elgar and Gustav Holst

Science: Famous Victorian naturalist Charles Darwin – links to our humans and animals work in science.