

The Victorians Autumn 1

Vocabulary

Monarch – a head of a state – a king, queen or emperor.

Reign – the time a king or queen rules over a country

British Empire – lands that Britain controlled which were all over the world

Industrial revolution – a period of change where factories and machines were used to make things

Slates – used to write on with a slate pencil rather than pencil and paper

Abacus – a wooden frame with beads which was used to help children count

Domestic service – doing household work such as cleaning or cooking in someone else's house

Upper Class – wealthy people who had a lot of money, land and servants

Working class – the bottom of the Victorian class system.

Governess – a woman paid to teach wealthy children at home.

Factory act – laws passed by the government to protect people working in dangerous factories, particularly women and children.

Mill – a factory that makes cloth

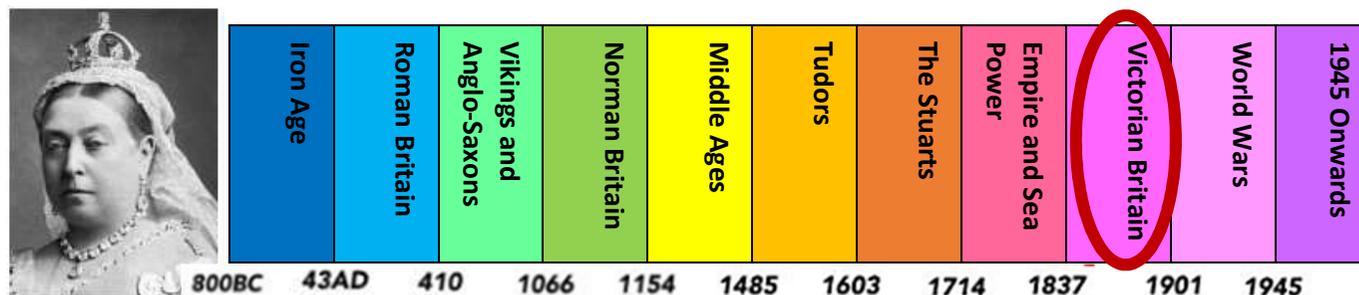
Mines – underground areas where people worked digging out coal and other minerals

Ragged School – a school set up to teach poor children

Trappers – children who operated wooden doors underground to allow fresh air into the mines

Workhouse – a building divided into sections for men, women and children where very poor people with no money could go and work in exchange for food, bed and shelter.

When in time was the Victorian era?



Victorian Britain is named after Queen Victoria who reigned over Britain from 1837 to her death in 1901.

Family life

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. Children from rich and poor families lived very different lives.



Rich families had large houses, servants and maids, expensive clothes, running water in their homes and flushing toilets, good food and toys and holidays to the sea-side.

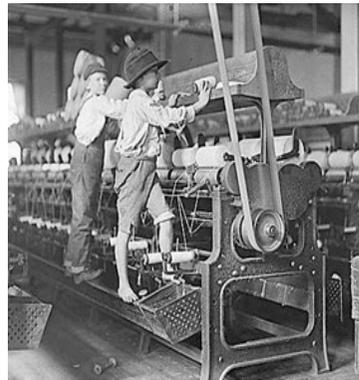


Poor families had smaller houses which were packed closely together, little food, worn and dirty clothes, retrieved their water from wells, had no toys or played with things they found and would help with the housework around the home.

Life for children

Working Children

Children from poorer families had to work from a very young age to earn extra money and did not go to school. Some of the most common jobs were as trappers in coal mines, working in factories or cotton mills with dangerous machinery, selling matches or flowers on the street and chimney sweeps. The poorest (often orphans) went to the workhouse. People campaigned to make changes for poor children and laws were introduced to protect them.



Victorian Education

The focus was on reading, writing and arithmetic. There was a big emphasis on religion and they didn't have PE but 'drill' instead. Victorian schools were very strict and there were severe punishments if rules were not followed.



H.G. Wells

Herbert George Wells (21 September 1866 – 13 August 1946) was an English author. He was born in Bromley, Kent. He wrote about 50 books. He was one of the inventors of science fiction writing books such as *The Invisible Man* and *The War of the Worlds*.

His first novel, *The Time Machine*, was the first book to be written about time travel and describes a Time Traveller who uses a complicated invention to travel to the future. It was immediately successful and led to H.G. Wells writing many more science fiction books.



Industrial revolution

This was when new manufacturing processes (how things are made) were introduced, with more factories to make things which once would have been created by hand.

Lots of people left their agriculturally based lives in the country to move to towns where they would work in the factories for better pay.



Inventions

The Victorian period saw many major developments that made travel, communications and trade easier. Many things were invented during this period, which we still use today or have used as the basis for new inventions.

These inventions include: electric light bulb, the first cars, electric telegraph, photography, bicycles, postage stamps, steam engine

