



Victorian Times



Victorian
Empire
(World)

Key Vocabulary

cholera	Due to dirty drinking water, this disease spread and killed up to 23,000 people between 1846-1860.
Great Exhibition	The Great Exhibition London in 1851 as a showcase of culture and history which 6 million people visited.
hanging	Hanging was still used as a punishment up until 1868 when the last public hanging took place.
Houses of Parliament	The Houses of Parliament were rebuilt in 1841 by Charles Barry in a Gothic style after a terrible fire in 1834.
library	Public libraries were opened (the first in Winchester in 1851) as a way of trying to improve education.
Mines Act	The Mines Act of 1842 stopped children under 10 from having to work in mines as they were unhealthy/unsafe.
railways	The Great Western Railway was completed in 1841 and large amounts of railway track was built afterwards.
stamps	In 1840, the first postage stamps came into use. Post boxes were installed and the Royal Mail delivered letters.
steam engine	Steam trains made travel a lot easier, and rich people started to go on holidays to the seaside.
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.

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 from 1837 - 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.

Children were not allowed to shout, complain, interrupt or disagree with anyone. They had to do as they were told and be cheerful and quiet all times!

Meanwhile in Meldreth

1851 – Meldreth and Melbourn railway station opened; people could travel to Cambridge, London and beyond with ease for the first time.

The population of Meldreth in Victorian times was around 6-800 but now it is three times larger (around 1 800).

Most people in Meldreth worked on farms in Victorian times. There was no school in Meldreth until 1910. Meldreth children either had no education or walked to the Board school in Melbourn.



