



Victorian Era

Essential Knowledge (End Points):	By the end of the unit of work the children will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • know the main events and key dates in relation to the Victorian era. • know how social classes and the industrial revolution influenced people's lives. • know which innovations were significant and why in relation to the Victorian Era. 		
Summary	<p>The Victorian era is the name given to the period of Queen Victoria's reign. It was a time of significant technological, scientific, economic and social change. New inventions and discoveries were made that changed where people lived, how they worked and how they spent their leisure time. The British Empire grew, and Britain came to rule over a quarter of the world's population. These changes brought immense wealth for many, but lots of people, including many children, still lived in terrible poverty. Many children worked in mines and factories. However, the Victorian era also saw lots more children attending school and significant progress in medicine and health care.</p> <p>The Victorian era was a time of significant change in technology and trade. The Industrial Revolution saw new inventions, like the steam engine, completely change the way people lived, and how they worked. Agriculture was no longer the primary source of work, and people flocked to growing urban areas and cities to find jobs. The shift from agriculture to industry was made possible by several significant innovations and the development of a skilled workforce. These skilled workers became part of the middle classes (people who were neither very wealthy nor very poor) who played an essential role in political and social developments of the time.</p>		
Main Events:	1837: Victoria became queen 1838: Slavery abolished in the British Empire 1838: Photographs taken and exhibited by William Henry Fox-Talbot 1840: First postage stamp issued 1845–9: Irish potato famine 1854: Britain went to war in Crimea 1856: Henry Bessemer invented a way to convert iron into steel 1859: Charles Darwin published 'On the Origin of Species' 1861: Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, died 1863: Underground trains ran in London for the first time 1867: Antiseptic first used 1876: Telephone invented by Alexander Graham Bell 1878: Electric street lighting used in London for the first time 1879: Electric light bulb invented 1880: Education became compulsory until the age of ten 1887: Gramophone invented 1888: John Dunlop invented the pneumatic tyre 1897: Women's suffrage movement grew	Vocabulary:	empire: a number of nations controlled by one country poverty: being extremely poor revolution: important change consequence: result or effect law: a set of rules conditions: how good or bad something is innovations: new ways of doing something workforce: people available to do a job economy: the wealth a country gets from business and industry representation: speaking on behalf of someone else parliament: a group of people who make or change laws

	1901: Victoria died		
Culture & Pastimes:	People in the Victorian era wanted to learn more about the world around them. New learning in science was of particular interest and often challenged religious beliefs and ideas. Art galleries, libraries and museums were built in every large city. Some of Britain's most famous authors, such as Charles Dickens and the Brontë sisters, were writing during this time	Society:	The lives of the rich and the poor were very different in Victorian times. Wealthy landowners of earlier years became wealthy factory owners and continued to control political life and the economy. Newly educated experts like engineers and lawyers, teachers and doctors became part of the middle classes who went on to change the way that politics worked, wanting more representation in parliament. However, despite improvements in the lives of many people, the poor and very poor continued to live and work in terrible conditions. The Industrial Revolution, which started in the late 1700s, saw significant growth in steam-powered machinery. The number of large factories making products to trade across the world also grew rapidly. Cities increased in size as people came to work in these factories, leaving the small villages they had lived in behind. The increase in population meant there was a need for more food, goods and housing. As a consequence, urban centres became overcrowded with factories and houses. Very young children had to work too, and it was only towards the end of the Victorian era that the law was changed to stop young children working in terrible conditions.
Food & Farming:	N/A	Beliefs:	N/A
Settlements:	The enormous changes in industry seen in the Victorian era brought people from the rural parts of the country into urban centres like Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds and Bradford. Without access to education, this new working class had to work very long hours in difficult conditions. Children made up a large part of the workforce in factories, mills, mines and workshops. These new towns and cities also became overcrowded, and pollution created significant problems for people's health and wellbeing.	Travel & Exploration:	N/A
Conflict:	N/A	Location:	N/A
Artefacts:	N/A	Innovations which influenced the modern world:	Industrial Revolution influences
Key Local Links:	Keswick Museum Visit	Common Misconceptions:	



	Component Statements	Extending Statements	
Main Events To know the main events and key dates in relation to the Victorian era.	Children will know: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Victorian era was from 1837 to 1901.• Factories/ workshops in Britain in the Victorian era, workers were poor and very poor, they worked in terrible conditions.• Innovation is a new idea or a new method/device, the introduction of something new.• Significant events in the Victorian era on a timeline.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suggest reasons why the Victorian era was a time of rapid scientific development.• Compare and contrast conditions in factories and houses at the beginning of Victoria's reign to those towards the end.• List the dates of significant inventions during the Victorian era.• List significant dates in the history of the British Empire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do you agree? The main reason for the end of the British Empire was the First World War.• Recommend suitable sources of evidence to provide an overview of the Victorian era. Justify your answers.
Society To know how social classes and the industrial revolution influenced people's lives.	Children will know: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children made up a large part of the workforce in factories, mills, mines and workshops.• Without access to education, this new working class had to work very long hours in difficult conditions.• The difference between the lives of the rich and the poor in the Victorian era.• What impact did the Industrial Revolution have on political and social organisation in the 19th century.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use multiple sources of evidence to explain the concept of the 'middle classes'.• What was the impact of new scientific discoveries on religious beliefs?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Investigate reforms in health and education during the Victorian era.• Do you agree? Without the Industrial Revolution there would not have been any middle classes.
Culture & Pastimes To know which innovations were significant and why in relation to the Victorian Era.	Children will know: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some significant technological innovations during the Victorian era.• People in the Victorian era wanted to learn more about the world around them.• New learning in science was of particular interest and often challenged religious beliefs and ideas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What do you think was the impact of Alexander Graham Bell's invention?• Explain the influence of significant Victorian authors on people's daily lives.• Name some famous writers from the Victorian era.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summarise a story by Charles Dickens or one of the Brontë sisters.• Do you agree? The growth in literacy and printed materials during the Victorian era contributed to the use of propaganda during the First World War.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Art galleries, libraries and museums were built in every large city. | | |
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