

The Victorians

Civilisation



Quick Facts



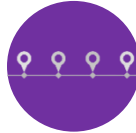
- Queen Victoria reigned for 63 years
- The British Empire was the largest Empire the World has ever seen
- In the late 19th century, 25 % of the population of Britain were living in poverty

Vocabulary



A group of states or countries ruled over by a single monarch

Timeline



1837 Victoria became Queen at 18
 1844 - The Factory Act stops children between 8 and 13 working more than 6.5 hours a day.
 1858 - The British Parliament passed the Government of India Act bringing India under British rule. Queen Victoria is crowned Empress of India.
 1880 - The Education Act makes compulsory schooling for all children between 5 and 10.
 1901 - Queen Victoria died. Her son becomes Edward VII.

Industrial Revolution

The rapid development of industry that occurred in Britain in the late 18th and 19th centuries, brought about by the introduction of machinery.

Poverty

The state of being extremely poor.

Workhouse

A place that offered housing and work to people who did not have any.

Slums

A squalid and overcrowded urban street or district inhabited by very poor people

Dunce's cap

A pointed hat, formerly used as an article of discipline in school

Factory

A building or group of buildings where goods are manufactured or assembled

Piecer

A child, employed in a spinning mill to join the ends of broken threads

Scavenger

A little boy or girl who crawled beneath the spinning machine to clean the mechanism of oil, dust and dirt.

Impact



The Victorian era was a period of change that saw the UK transition from a way of life centred on agriculture to one based on manufacturing with many people moving from the countryside to the towns and cities to work in the new factories. The country's wealth made it become a world power and helped it to gain an Empire but rapid industrialisation brought a number of social problems.

The idea of childhood began to change during the 19th century and by the end of the Victorian era, 'childhood' was seen by the middle class as quite separate from that of the adult world. Earlier generations of children had been exposed to the hardships and responsibilities of adult life but a new shift in attitude created an expectation that a child should be dependent on and looked after by adults.

This 19th shift in attitude was due in part to industrialisation and the movement of families to the town and cities. Children who had once worked on the land in small communities were increasingly employed in factories. Working and living conditions for the working classes grew increasingly hard and the social reform Acts of Parliament of the later 19th century attempted to improve the lives of the working poor. Social reformers, motivated by their Christian values played a significant role in bringing about change.

Surrounding Chronology



Ancient Egypt
4500BC - 2500BC

Aztecs
AD1195 to AD1522

Victorians
AD1837 - AD1901

Vikings
AD793 - AD1066

Tudors
AD1485 - AD1603

Modern Britain
AD 1945 - NOW

