



Y6-Knowledge Organiser –History-The Victorians

Key Facts

- The Victorian period of history is named after Queen Victoria who reigned as monarch of our country, and a large empire, from 1837 until her death in 1901.
- Life in Victorian times was rather different to how it is today. It was a time of both great wealth and great poverty, as well as invention and scientific discovery.
- People started using electricity for the first time in the Victorian Era. The first electrically-lit streetlights, public building and even village were in the UK.
- Steam trains made travel much faster for people. It used to take people 12 hours to travel between Birmingham and London if they were riding in a horse-drawn coach. Steam trains meant they could make the journey in under six hours!
- In 1851, more than 500,000 of Britain's children were working – and many of these were working in factories in poor conditions and for very little money.
- In 1880 a law was passed making it compulsory for every child in Britain between the ages of 5 and 10 to attend school. Lots of new schools were opened in Victorian times, but they were very different from the schools of today.

Key Vocabulary

- **empire**-a group of countries controlled by one country.
- **Industrial Revolution**-a period where machines began to be used more in factories and more goods were produced as a result.
- **industry**-the work and processes involved in manufacturing things in factories.
- **invention**-the act of making something new that hasn't been done before.
- **monarchy**-a system in which a king or queen reigns in a country.
- **poverty**-the state of being very poor.
- **punishment**-something unpleasant done to someone because they have done something wrong.
- **reign**-when a king or queen reigns he/she rules a country.
- **slum**- poor run down area of a city.
- **sovereign**-one possessing supreme political power
- **trade**-the activity of buying, selling or exchanging goods or services.
- **workhouse**-a building for which very poor people were sent and made to work in return for food and shelter.



Timeline of events

- 1837-Queen Victoria (18) crowned.
- 1840 –Queen married her cousin, Prince Albert.
- 1840 – first ragged schools set up.
- 1840s- Railway 'mania' hits Britain
- 1841-Thomas Cook opens a travel firm.
- 1851 – Great Exhibition.
- 1855 – First stethoscope invented.
- 1861 – Prince Albert died.
- 1863 – first underground railway opened in London.
- 1871 – first FA cup for football.
- 1872- Railway came through Wednesfield, from Wolverhampton to Walsall.
- 1876 – Alexander Bell patented the telephone.
- 1877 – Queen declared 'Empress of India'.
- 1879 – Invention of the light bulb
- 1881 – First electric street lighting.
- 1884 – The first 'safety' bicycle
- 1889 – First vacuum cleaners invented.
- 1890 – Electric trains ran on London Underground
- 1895 – Herbert Austin opens a motor Car factory in Birmingham
- 1891-education made free and compulsory for children 5-13.
- 1897 – Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee (50 years on the throne).

