



Key Questions

What was life like 130 years ago?

How did Victorians change the way we care for the poor?

If life was so hard for families in the towns, why did so many leave the countryside and move to the towns in Victorian times?

What the Dickens was life like in the Victorian cities?







Children working in Victorian factories: was it as bad as they tell us?

What was life like for climbing boys and how do we know?

Victorian railways: Who were the winners and loser?

The Victorian Era: Dark Age or Golden Age?

Key Inventions

Railway Network	Photography	London Underground
		
Telephone	Electric Bulb	Petrol Car
		

The Victorian Era



The period of time between 1837 to 1901 when Queen Victoria reigned over Britain. During her 63 year reign, there was a huge contrast between how the rich and poor Victorians lived. Queen Victoria led the expansion of the British empire and saw major changes to all aspects of Britain due to exciting discoveries and inventions.

Industrial Revolution

- A period of huge change in Britain between 1750 and 1900.
- Before the Industrial Revolution, Britain was a rural country, most people lived off the land with livestock.
- People began to realise that coal and steam could be used to power factories, large machines, flour and cotton mills. This reduced the time it took to make something and increased the amount that could be made and so the Industrial Revolution began.
- Huge factories were built and towns expanded.
- People would migrate to the towns attracted by reliable work and pay from the factories.
- Houses for workers were built closer to the factories.
- Better transport links helped boost trade by transporting people and goods quickly and cheaply all across the country.

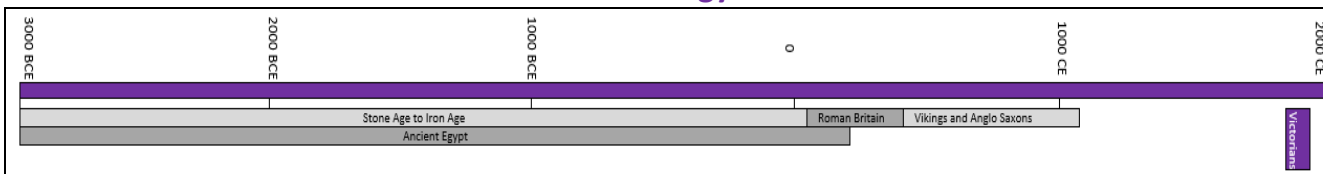


Factory and Chimney Sweeps Acts



- Factory Acts of 1830s – Improve conditions of Factories
- Chimney Sweeps Act 1834 – Age limit for chimney sweeps
- 1840 – It became illegal for young boys to climb chimneys
- 1875 – Police given more power enforce law.

Chronology



Key Vocabulary

Era	an important period of history		
Empire	a group of territories or peoples under one ruler		
Monarch	a person who reigns over a kingdom or empire		
Reign	the time during which a monarch rules		
Census	the process by which a government counts its people		
Pauper	a very poor person		
Rural	areas which are not towns or cities.		
Urban	places where buildings and places where people work and live are all close together.		
Industry	a group of companies that all produce the same thing.		
Industrial Revolution	a time of major change in the way products were made.		
Revolution	a big change in something.		
Migrate	move to a different area to find work or better living conditions.		
Class System	The different status people belonged to depending on their wealth. (Upper, middle and working class)		
19th Century	1801 - 1900	20th Century	1901 - 2000

Workhouses

- Known as “The Poor House” Introduced in 1834 as a new system for helping the poor.
- Food was very basic including bread, porridge (gruel), watered down milk and occasionally meat and potatoes.
- ‘Trough’ sleeping arrangements were dark and cramped
- Degrading ‘prison-like’ work.
- In 1930, workhouses were closed for good.

Historical Sources

Reliable/bias sources – depending on who the account is from.

Census	Pictures	Political documents
Photographs	Testimony	Artefacts