









Key Questions

1. What was life like 130 years ago?
2. 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?
3. How did Victorians change the way we care for the poor?
4. Children working in Victorian factories and as climbing boys: was it as bad as they tell us?
5. How did Victorians travel to their holiday destinations, and what did they do there?
6. Victorian railways: Who were the winners and loser?

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.

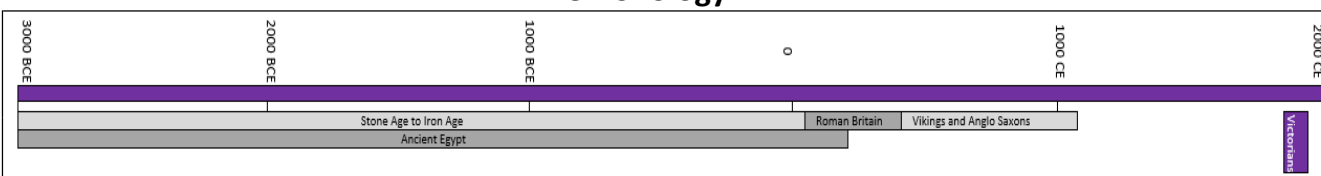


Factory and Chimney Sweeps Acts



- 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)

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.