

Victorian Britain

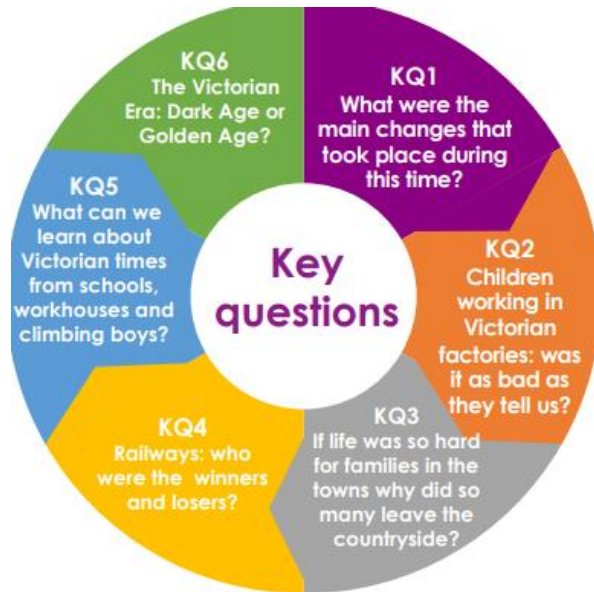
Why we are learning about Victorian Britain

You are learning about Victorian Britain because this was a really significant period of huge change in industry and technology, with amazing inventions that we still use today. But it was also a time of shocking divisions between rich and poor, when the population more than doubled and many people moved from the countryside to the towns in search of work in the new factories. It was during this period that Britain became the first global super-power producing much of the world's coal, iron and textiles. At home, family life was very important and many of the wealthier Victorians became concerned about social problems and pushed through lots of reforms in health, policing and prisons and protected the poor child labour.

Laws passed to improve conditions for those, especially children working in mines and factories

People move from countryside to towns and cities





How the British Empire was seen at the time

Key vocabulary

British Empire	Territories controlled by Britain all over the world
Class	A group of people sharing a similar social rank; often described as upper, middle and working(lower) class.
Factory	Buildings where goods are manufactured or assembled chiefly by machine
Industrial Revolution	Fast and very important changes that took place in Britain and other countries in the 18th and 19th centuries as a result of improvements in industry
Mill	A building equipped with machinery for weaving and spinning into cloth
Poverty	Not having enough money for basic needs
Rural	To do with living in the country
Reigned	Someone who is a ruler
Sanitation	Keeping things clean at home to stop infection spreading
Slums	The squalid section of a city, full of overcrowded houses in poor conditions
Urban	Characteristic of a town or city
Wealth	Having a large amount of money
Workhouse	A place where poor people without families or jobs lived

Top takeaways

You will have learned that:

- 1 During Victoria's 64 year reign, there were massive changes in industry and technology with Britain becoming the world leader in the production of goods
- 2 Britain was incredibly inventive at that time with a wide range of new products which we take for granted today : railways, bicycles , motor cars, telephones etc
- 3 Britain grew extremely wealthy and expanded her empire across the world
- 4 During this time the population more than doubled and there was a major shift of population from countryside to the industrial towns and cities many of which grew up in the north.
- 5 There was a dark side to Victorian society and there was an enormous gap between rich and poor
- 6 Some rich Victorians worked hard to improve the life of the poor, the conditions for children working in factories, and mines and reformed prisons and public health.

Victorian inventions



Photographic Cameras – 1838



Postage stamps - 1840



The Sewing Machine - 1845



The flushing toilet - 1851



The typewriter - 1873



The electric light bulb - 1879



The Telephone – 1876



The Bicycle – 1880s



The motor car – 1885



The radio -1895