

Year 5/6 History - Autumn - Victorian Britain

National Curriculum	Images	Key Questions	Vocabulary
A study of an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils' chronological knowledge beyond 1066. Children should note connections, contrasts and trends over time and develop the appropriate use of historical terms. They should regularly address and sometimes devise historically valid questions about change, cause, similarity and difference, and significance. Children should construct informed responses that involve thoughtful selection and organisation of relevant historical information. They should understand how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources.	     	Who was Queen Victoria? Who was Charles Dickens? What was life like for children in Victorian times? What was the Industrial Revolution? What were other major inventions during Victorian times? What impact did the Industrial revolution have on transport in Victorian Britain?	Industrial Revolution Workhouse Poorhouse British Empire Slums Privy

Key learning - Life in Victorian times

- 1 Who was Queen Victoria?** Queen Victoria was born in 1819 and died in 1901. She crowned in 1837 when she was just 18, and her reign lasted 63 years. She reigned during a period of immense change which saw a great expansion of the British Empire.
- 2 Who was Charles Dickens? What can we learn from his writing about life in Victorian times?** Charles Dickens was a famous English writer who lived during the Victorian era. He is widely regarded as one of the greatest novelists of all time, known for creating iconic characters like Ebenezer Scrooge, Oliver Twist, and David Copperfield. Through Charles Dickens' stories, we can learn about the stark divide between rich and poor and the harsh realities of child labour in factories and workhouses and also about Victorian Christmas traditions.
- 3 What was life like for children in Victorian times?** Life for Victorian children was starkly divided by class. Wealthy children enjoyed nurseries, toys, and private education, while poor children often faced harsh child labor, dangerous living conditions, and little schooling. Poor children often worked cleaning chimneys, down mines, selling matches or just became beggars on the streets.
- 4. What was the Industrial Revolution?** The Industrial Revolution (around 1760–1900) was a time when people stopped making things slowly by hand at home and started using huge machines in factories. Powered by steam and coal, this change created modern cities, trains, and mass-produced toys, clothes, and tools that we use every day.
- 5 How did peoples' lives change because of the Industrial Revolution?** Before this period, most families lived in quiet farming villages, and children learned trades or helped with crops while living at home. As the revolution boomed, families were forced to move to crowded, polluted cities for factory jobs. Entire families, including children, worked long, dangerous hours for very little money while the factory owners got very rich.
- 6 What impact did the Industrial revolution have on transport in Victorian Britain?** The Industrial Revolution completely transformed how goods and people traveled in Victorian Britain. Beforehand, transport was slow and heavy. Thanks to new steam engines, the country built better roads, a vast network of canals, and powerful steam trains that linked towns together, made travel cheaper, and changed daily life
- 7 What were other major inventions during Victorian times?** Groundbreaking creations that transformed daily life include the telephone (1876), the electric lightbulb (1879), moving pictures (1895), and the world's first Underground Railway in London (1863) .