

Knaphill School – What was the worst aspect of being a Victorian?

Focus subjects: History

Year Group: 6

Term: Spring

What should I already know?

A monarch is a sovereign head of state, especially a king, queen or emperor.

The role of the monarch has changed over time.

William the Conqueror, and Henry VIII are famous monarchs from the past.



Key Information

The time in which Queen Victoria ruled is known as The Victorian Era. Her reign of almost 64 years was the longest in British history until Elizabeth II broke her record!

Victoria ruled with her husband, Prince Albert who died in 1861. They had nine children together. Eight of Victoria's nine children married royalty from all across Europe. Because of this, lots of people called her the 'Grandmother of Europe'.

The British Empire was at its peak during the Victorian Era, with Britain ruling over almost a quarter of the world.

Victoria's predecessor was her uncle, William IV and her successor was Edward VII, who was her eldest son.

The Industrial Revolution rapidly gained pace during Queen Victoria's reign. This was a time when the manufacturing of goods moved from small shops and homes to large factories.

Due to the increase of mass-produced goods, the Arts and Crafts Movement flourished.

What will I know by the end of the topic?

Where does the Victorian Era fit into British history?	Victorian Era– 1837-1901, followed the Georgian period and preceded the Edwardian period. The Suffragette Movement gained momentum during the Victorian Era. However, women did not get the vote until 17 years after Queen Victoria died.
What type of Queen was Queen Victoria?	Queen Victoria became Queen at the young age of 18. Victoria had not always been destined to be Queen - she was once fifth in line to the throne. Although only 4ft 11in in height, she had a vibrant personality with huge amounts of energy for music, dancing and the arts. After Prince Albert's death, she went into mourning wearing only black for the rest of her life.
What was life like for poor Victorians?	Poor Victorians had a rough and hard life, often ending up in the workhouse or dying early. They lived in damp, filthy and crowded conditions.
What was life like for wealthy Victorians?	Wealthy Victorians enjoyed a good and easy life. The wealthy were usually well-fed, clean and well-clothed. They usually had servants who performed household duties for the family.
How were children educated in the Victorian Era?	In early Victorian England, most poor children never went to school at all and grew up unable to read and write. Wealthy children would have been educated at home by a governess. However, the Education Act of 1870 meant that attending school became mandatory.
What were the conditions in Victorian workhouses?	The workhouse became known for its terrible conditions: forced child labour, long hours, malnutrition, beatings and neglect.
How were children's lives affected during the Industrial Revolution?	Children performed all sorts of jobs: working on machines in factories; selling newspapers on street corners; breaking up coal at the coal mines and as chimney sweeps. Children were preferred workers as they were small and could easily fit between machines.
How did hygiene affect the health of Victorian people?	Due to the poor public health conditions, the Public Health Act was introduced. Prior to this, sewage flowed openly through the streets, disease was rife and medicine was basic.

Vocabulary

Victorian Era	The time in which Queen Victoria was queen.
Artefacts	An object made by humans.
Workhouse	Workhouses were where poor people who had no job or home lived. They earned their keep by doing jobs in the workhouse.
Industrial Revolution	A time of great change in Britain between 1750-1900.
Poverty	Not having enough material items or income for a person's needs.
Arts and Crafts Movement	A return to well-made, handcrafted goods instead of mass-produced, poor quality, machine-made items.
Social Class	Victorian society was divided into upper, middle and lower classes based on occupation, wealth and education.
British Empire	A group of countries ruled over by the British monarch.
Preceded	To come before something in time.
Predecessor	The person who previously was king or queen.
Successor	The person who became king or queen after the current monarch.
Mandatory	Forced by law.
Child labour	The employment of children in a business, often for little or no pay.