



THE VICTORIAN ERA

Year 3 - Eleanor Palmer



The British Empire in Victorian Times



The British Empire in 1901.

By 1901 (the year in which Queen Victoria died) Britain ruled over about 1/4 of the world. At this point, the British Empire was made up of around 400 million people (the population of England was only around 40 million). The empire included the entire Indian subcontinent, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and large parts of Africa.



1819 – Victoria is born (but called Alexandrina)

1837 – Victoria becomes Queen aged 18.

1839– Victoria marries her cousin Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha

1840-1857 -Victoria and Albert have 9 children

1861 – Albert dies from Typhoid

1871 - The Royal Albert Hall is opened






1877 – Victoria is named Empress of India

1901 – Queen Victoria dies aged 81

Important Events in Victorian Times

The Industrial Revolution		In the Industrial Revolution, the manufacturing of goods moved from small shops to large factories. This meant that more people moved into the cities. It was a time of new technologies and a more modern way of life.	When? Around 1760-1850	Key Fact: Queen Victoria took to the throne at the very end of the revolution.
The Irish Potato Famine		In the early 19 th Century, potatoes were the main source of food and income in Ireland. A fungus: 'potato blight' made the potatoes rot, which was a national disaster: about 800,000 people died.	When? Around 1845-1849	Key Fact: Many blamed the British government for the depth of the tragedy.
The Great Exhibition		Prince Albert organized the Great Exhibition to show case British inventions and demonstrate the country's ingenuity to the rest of the world.	When? 1851	Key Fact: The Crystal Palace was built specially to house the exhibition.
The Crimean War		The Crimean War was fought between Russia and an alliance of France, the UK, and the Ottoman Empire. The Allies eventually won. The war became known for the mistreatment of soldiers.	When? October 1853 to February 1856	Key Fact: People at home heard about the war for the first time, through journalists and photographers.
The British Raj is formed		India came under direct British government control when the the East India Company was dissolved	When? 1858	Key Fact: The British Raj remained in place until 1947.
Origin of the Species Published		Darwin's masterpiece resulted from over 20 years of research. It caused an immediate stir, as it directly contradicted the Bible's creation story. It was initially rejected by many.	When? November 24 th 1859	Key Fact: The paper was translated into 8 different languages in Darwin's lifetime.
The Education Act		In 1870, Parliament passed the Forster's Education Act, requiring all parts of Britain to provide schools to children aged 5 to 12.	When? 1870	Key Fact: Not all schools were free so many could not afford the 'school's pence' each week.

Life in Victorian Times

Class		In Victorian times, there were still distinct social classes: the upper class, middle class, and working class. Life was terrible for the poorest: Awful working conditions and little food.	Who? The upper classes was made up of very few people.	Key Fact: The upper class lived prosperous lives, with servants and cooks.
Life for Children		Until the late 19 th Century, education was only for the rich. Lots of children from poor families had to work instead. They worked long hours for little money.	What? Children were often exploited, paid very little for long hours.	Key Fact: Only in 1880 did primary schooling become compulsory.
Health		Medicine was nowhere near as advanced as today, Many diseases were fatal, and childbirth and poverty were very dangerous to people living in the era, especially the poor.	How? Poor public hygiene played a large part in people's poor health.	Key Fact: On average, middle class people lived to 45. Working class were lucky to live half that time.
Clothes		For the rich, expensive clothes were a must. Aristocratic women wore elaborate dresses, blouses and bonnet hats, whilst men wore high-waisted trousers, cravat tops and top hats.	How? Poor Victorians had to buy their clothes 2nd hand.	Key Fact: Over the many years of Victoria's reign, fashion trends changed a great deal!
Workhouses		Workhouses were places where a person went if they could not afford to support themselves and their families - they quickly became extremely crowded and unpleasant.	How? People slept in dormitories, where disease was easily spread.	Key Fact: Many orphans ended up growing up in workhouses.

KEY VOCABULARY

British Empire: Countries ruled by Britain; later became the Commonwealth.

Empress: The female ruler of an empire, or the wife of an emperor.

Industrial Revolution: The era of rapid and great change in industry and manufacturing with the growth of factories, beginning in the late 1700s.

Invention: The action of inventing something, typically a process or device.

Monarch: A sovereign head of state, eg: a king, queen, or emperor.

Mourning: A state of sorrow after a death of a loved one.

Ragged School: Charitable, free schools set up for poor children.

Reign: The length of time a king or queen rules.

Social class: A division of a society based on social and economic status.

Victorians: The name given to people who lived during Queen Victoria's reign.

Workhouse: Place where people without means of support (usually the very poor, young and elderly) were sent to live; they got food and a bed in return for work. Most Victorian towns had a workhouse.

