

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School



Subject: History

Topic: Victorians

Year: 6

What I should already know:

- The chronological order and where the Victorians sit within this.
- The difference between primary and secondary sources.
- An awareness of the prominent kind and queens of the past.

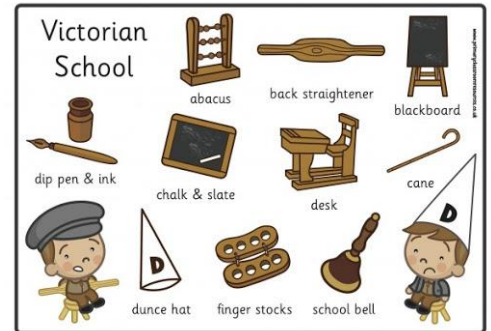
Key information:

- Queen Victoria came to the throne in 1837 when she was just 18 years old. She died in 1901, having reigned for 64 years. She was the second longest reigning monarch in Britain, after Queen Elizabeth II. She was married to Prince Albert of Germany and together they had 9 children, 40 grandchildren and 37 great grandchildren.
- Prince Albert died in 1861 when he was just 42. For the rest of her reign Queen Victoria wore black to mourn her husband. The Victorian era saw a great many changes in Britain. Britain became an extremely powerful country and created an enormous empire around the world. It was also a time of technological change and many new advances came about, such as the railway, photography, and many new machines which changed the way we live.
- Children from poor families in Victorian times had to work from a very young age. They did not go to school but worked in jobs that were often dangerous and difficult. Children were sent to work as soon as they were able. There was nothing new about this in Victorian times; poor children had been working for hundreds of years. Some of the jobs they did were better suited to children than adults because they were smaller, like chimneysweeps, and employers took advantage of this.
- In the workhouse, you were given free meals, accommodation and medical care, but the authorities didn't want to encourage laziness so they made sure that life in the workhouse was the last thing people would want.
- In Victorian times, there were no laws to protect children at work like there are today. Children were often forced to do dangerous jobs for little money because there was no other option for them. Although children had been working for hundreds of years, the Industrial Revolution meant that the jobs children were doing in the 19th century were even more dangerous. Some worked in factories where they had to crawl around under moving machinery. Others were sent down coal mines and had no breaks or fresh air. These jobs could injure or even kill them.



- **Dr Barnardo:** Thomas John Barnardo was born in 1845 in Dublin. When he came to London in 1866 and saw children sleeping and begging in the streets he wanted to do something to help them. He set up a Ragged School where poor children could get a basic education and he opened a home for boys. The work with children he started then continues today with the charity Barnardo's

Vocabulary



constable (noun)

a police officer of low rank

debtor's prison (noun)

a special prison that was used for those who had debts that they could not pay; they stayed in prison until they had worked enough to pay their debt or someone paid it for them

dormitory (noun)

a large bedroom shared by a number of people in a school or institution

dunce (noun)

slang

a word used to mean someone incapable of learning; a naughty schoolchild

gigglemug (noun)

slang

someone who cannot stop smiling

Industrial Revolution (noun)

a period during the 19th century when machine manufacturing grew more common and many people began to work in factories in towns and cities

landlord (noun)

the owner of a rented property

Key Questions:

What impact did the Victorians have on our lives today?

What was life like in the Victorian times?

Why are the Victorians so famous?



Useful Websites

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/victorians/websites.htm>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zcw76sg>

<http://www.victorians.org.uk/>