

# Hyde Park Junior School History

**Topic: The Victorians**

**Year 6**

**Strand: Changes in Society**

**Enquiry Question: Were Victorian children treated fairly according to today's standards?**

## Overview

During this unit, we will look at what life was like during the Victorian Era, including industrial advancement and the growth of the empire. In particular, we will focus on the lives of Victorian children and their working conditions.

### What should I already know?

The Victorians lived during the reign of Queen Victoria (1837 to 1901). Queen Victoria is one of the longest reigning monarchs in British history, outlasted only by Queen Elizabeth II. During early Victorian times, there was no electricity. Instead, gas lamps or candles were used for light. There were also no cars. People either walked, travelled by boat or train, or used coach horses to move from place to place. However, it was also a time of tremendous change in the lives of British people.



### Key Vocabulary

**industrial** - the process of manufacturing (making) goods in factories  
**poverty** – not having the necessary money to have a good standard of living  
**child labour** – children are forced to work like adults  
**working class** – people who have jobs that are not high paid  
**upper class** – the wealthiest people in society  
**paupers** – a very poor person  
**workhouse** - a place where those unfit or unable to find work were forced to live  
**ragged schools** – charitable schools that provided free education  
**reformers** – a group of people trying to make changes for the better  
**empire** - a group of countries ruled over by a single monarch

### Empire

When Queen Victoria came to the throne, Britain already governed areas of six continents, but during the Victorian Era the empire expanded to cover more than a quarter of the world's population and it was said that the sun never set on the British Empire.



### Enquiry questions

Here are some questions that you could look in to:  
 Does technological advance mean the same thing as progress?  
 Could the 19th Century be called 'The Age of Improvement'?  
 How does the British Empire compare with the Roman Empire?  
 Which Victorian invention do you think is most important to modern life?



### Timeline

1819	Victoria is born.
1837	Victoria becomes Queen.
1840	Queen Victoria married Prince Albert.
1841	The Great Western Railway from Bristol to London was completed.
1841	Thomas Cook starts to provide tourist holidays.
1850	Workhouses opened for the poorest people.
1851	The Great Exhibition at Crystal Palace.
1861	Death of Prince Albert.
1869	The first Sainsbury's shop open in Dury Lane, London.
1876	Alexander Bell invents the telephone.
1876	Primary education is made compulsory.
1878	First public electric lighting in London is installed.
1901	Queen Victoria dies.

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Question 1: Which country was NOT part of the British Empire?	Start of unit	End of unit
Bermuda		
America		
India		
Australia		

Question 2: Which of the following were invented during the Victorian Era?	Start of unit	End of unit
The television		
The bicycle		
The Christmas card		
Rubber tyres		
The internet		
The airplane		

Question 3: Which of the following were jobs that Victorian children had?	Start of unit	End of unit
Chimney sweeps		
Servant		
Hurriers		

Question 4: Why did Victorian children have to work?	Start of unit	End of unit

Question 5: Explain how Lord Shaftsbury and Dr Barnardo helped Victorian children.	Start of unit	End of unit