



WHAT DID THE VICTORIANS DO FOR US?

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The British Empire in Victorian Times

By 1901 (the year in which Queen Victoria died) Britain ruled over about 1/4 of the world. The empire included the entire Indian subcontinent, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and large parts of Africa.



Queen Victoria (1819-1901)



Victoria was the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland from 20th June 1837 until 22nd January 1901. On 1st May 1876 she was granted the additional title of 'Empress of India.' Her reign of 63 years and 7 months was the longest of any British monarch aside from Queen Elizabeth II, and was known as the Victorian era. She died in 1901 at the age of 81.



Charles Dickens (1812-1870)

Charles Dickens was a writer, who is widely regarded as the greatest novelist of the Victorian era.

Isambard Kingdom Brunel (1806-1859)

Isambard Kingdom Brunel was an engineer who was known as one of the 19th centuries 'engineering giants' creating many things including bridges and tunnels.

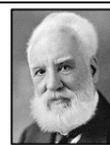


Thomas John Barnardo (1845-1905)

Dr Barnardo (as he came to be known) was a philanthropist, who set up 'ragged schools' where children could get a free basic education.

Alexander Graham Bell (1847-1922)

Alexander Graham Bell was a Scottish-born scientist and inventor who is credited with inventing the first practical telephone.



Victorian inventions

- 1816 George Stephenson patented a steam engine locomotive that ran on rails.
- 1839 Steam powered paddle boat - Isambard Kingdom Brunel.
- 1844 Morse Code - Samuel Morse.
- 1849-1921 Ceramic toilet- Thomas William Twyford
- 1876 Telephone - Alexander G. Bell
- 1876 Electric light bulb - Thomas Edison

Key Vocabulary

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.	When? Around 1760-1850
The Public Health Act 1848		The Public Health Act was drafted in response to requests to improve public health conditions in poor areas. It is seen as the first step on the road towards improved public health.	When? Initiated in 1848
The Crimean War		The Crimean War was fought between Russia and an alliance of France, the UK, and the Ottoman Empire. The Allies eventually prevailed.	When? October 1853 to February 1856
Prince Albert's Death		Prince Albert, Victoria's husband died from typhoid aged only 42. Victoria withdrew from public life for years.	When? 14 th December, 1861
Life for Children		Until the late 19 th Century, education was a reserve of the rich. As many families were so poor, lots of children instead had to work.	What? Children were often exploited, paid very little for long hours.
Class		Despite the revolution, there were still distinct social classes: the upper class, middle class, and working class. Life was terrible for the poorest.	Who? The upper classes were made up of very few people.
Health		Medicine was nowhere near as advanced as today. Many diseases were rife, especially for the poor.	How? Poor public hygiene played a large part in people's poor health.
Workhouses		Workhouses were places where a person went if they could not afford to financially support themselves and their families.	How? People slept in dormitories, where disease was easily spread.
Food		As with all aspects of life, there were vast differences between the diets of the rich and poor.	What? Workhouses only offered basic rations.
Clothes		For the rich, expensive clothes were a must. Clothes were almost always made to measure.	How? Poor Victorians had to buy their clothes 2nd hand.