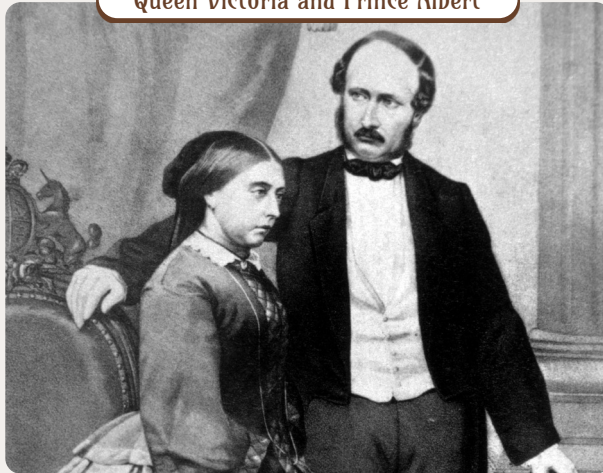


VICTORIANS



This period in British history, named after the reigning monarch herself, saw great advancement in science, technology, industry and population. It was an extremely difficult time to be a poor city dweller: the boom in industry meant that working conditions, sanitation, healthcare and education were in desperate need of reform. Queen Victoria's reign also had a global impact with the rapid growth of the British Empire which saw Indigenous peoples in many British colonies treated with violence and abuse. Victoria was just 18 when she took the throne in strange circumstances and after a very strict upbringing. She married Albert in 1840 and they had nine children together. Albert's death in 1861 was devastating for Victoria, yet she continued to reign for a further 40 years without him.

Queen Victoria and Prince Albert



Queen Elizabeth II was Victoria's great, great granddaughter and the one to beat her record. She reigned for 70 years.

George IV (1820-1830)
Victoria's uncle

William IV (1830 - 1837)
Victoria's uncle

Victoria (1837-1901)

Edward VII (1901-1910)
Victoria's eldest son

George V (1910 - 1936)
Victoria's grandson

Industrial Revolution 1760-1900

The Industrial revolution was a period of great change in Britain. A series of inventions, relating to transport, engines and fabric in particular, led to the mass production of numerous cheaper products in new factories and workhouses. Wealth generated by the slave trade kept taxes low which encouraged investment. The slave trade also stimulated British industry through demand for goods such as plantation tools. The increase in factory work and the impact of machinery on farming, brought thousands of people from the countryside to the city. This abundance of workers allowed factory owners to pay low wages and provide poor and dangerous working conditions. This was a catalyst for further change: to manage the terrible living conditions and spread of diseases.

Victorian Inventions



Penny Black, 1840



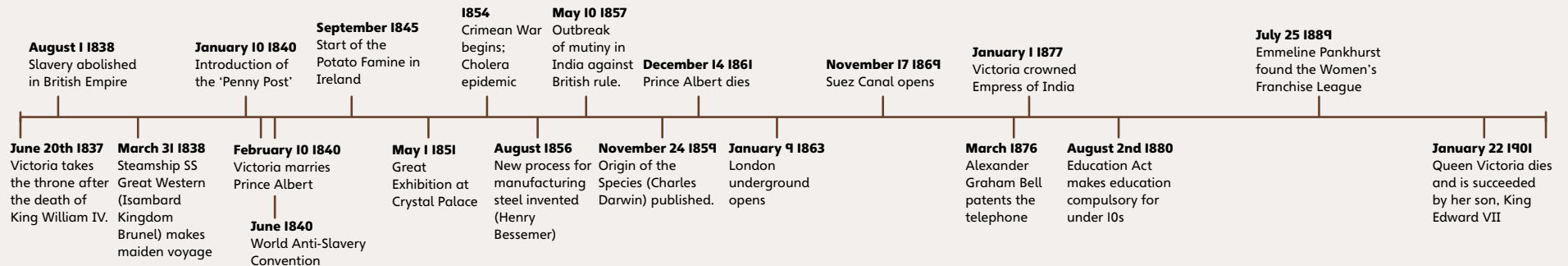
Electric light bulb, 1879



Chocolate Easter eggs



Electric light bulb, 1879



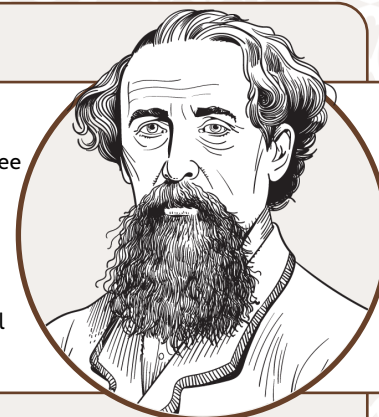
VICTORIANS

Rich vs Poor

In Victorian England, your lifestyle, prospects, outlook and health depended very much upon whether you were wealthy or poor. The rich for the most part, lived an easy and comfortable life with plentiful food, clothing and servants to run their homes. On the other hand, the poor generally lived in squalid and crowded conditions and could barely afford enough food despite their endless working hours. The poor also lived in constant fear of the workhouse where they would be split from their loved ones.

Charles Dickens

Dickens is often regarded as the greatest novelist from the Victorian period. As a young boy, he was sent to work in a blacking factory (producing boot polish) for three years when his father was imprisoned and the family fell into debt. He subsequently continued his studies and later began his career as a journalist. Once he started writing novels, there was no stopping him and the hardships he had experienced made their way onto his pages. His books were popular and helped the wealthy to better understand the plight of the poor. Dickens also actively campaigned for social reforms. His dedication helped to make sure these reforms were actioned.



VOCABULARY

Education Act	A new law which changes the existing education laws.
empire	A group of countries or states controlled by one country.
famine	Extreme scarcity of food.
Industrial Revolution	The period of great change when products began to be produced in large quantities in factories as opposed to small scale, by hand.
monarchy	Country that is ruled by a monarch.
population	The number of people in a single area.
poverty	The state of being extremely poor.
reform	Make changes to something to improve it.
reign	The period during which the monarch is in position.
slum	An overcrowded area inhabited by very poor people.
workhouse	A public institution where the poor receive food and lodging in return for work.

Some of the worst Victorian jobs:

Title	Job	Dangers
Factory Worker	Working, cleaning or fixing machines (different types of machines depending upon what the factory produced).	Long hours and extremely dangerous machinery, fumes and chemicals.
Chimney Sweep	Climbing up into chimneys to clean and clear them.	Danger of death by falling, being burned alive or long-term effects of breathing in and being covered in coal dust / smoke.
Mudlark	Searching the banks of the Thames for lost / discarded items in the mud which could be sold.	Being drowned by unpredictable tides, wading in toxic mud which could lead to disease or infection.
Crossing Boy	Sweeping paths for people on dirty streets.	Disease or infection.
Pure Finders	Collecting dog poo from around the city and selling it to factories for the production of leather.	Disease or infection.
Night Soil Men	Collecting human waste and selling it to farmers for fertiliser.	Disease or infection.
Leech Collector	Walking through water, waiting for leeches to attack and suck your blood then picking off and selling to doctors.	Blood loss, disease and infection.

Textile factories were very common. These relied on the cotton grown by enslaved people in the Americas.