

Key Knowledge:

When is the Victorian era?

The Victorian *era* was the years 1837-1901. This is the period of time of Queen Victoria's reign.

How did life change during the Victorian era?

Life changed hugely for people during the Victorian *era*.

People – Many people moved from the countryside to cities to work in the new factories.

Inventions – Some people had access to new inventions including railways, electricity, photographs, cars and telephones.

Education – The first schools were set up during the Victorian era, at first children were asked to go to school for 2 hours a day, in 1880 children aged between 5 and 13 were required to go to school but they had to pay. In 1891 education was made free and compulsory for all children aged between 5 and 13.

Children – Children's lives changed dramatically with new *acts* being passed which meant that children couldn't work in mines and factories and by the end of the Victorian *era* all children had to attend school.

What was school and education like in the Victorian era?

School was very different from today, with pictures of the royal family and posters of the *British Empire* decorating the classroom. Children used chalk and slate to do their work. Often there would be 1 teacher to upwards of 60 children, and children would have to share desks made for 1 with up to 4 other children. There was one stove to heat the room which was at the front of the class by the teacher. If children didn't understand their work they would be forced to wear a Dunce hat. If children didn't follow the rules they could be caned or hit with a ruler as punishment.

Key Vocabulary:

Workhouse	A place where people who were unable to afford to look after themselves and their families, went to work and live.
British Empire	Countries that were ruled by Britain.
Act	Parliamentary act which creates a new law.
Education	Children were able to learn how to do things and access support to help them in their learning.
Inventions	A process or device that has been created.
Era	A long period of time or history.

Timeline of events:

- 1837 – Queen Victoria crowned (aged 18 years).
- 1840 – Queen marries her cousin, Prince Albert.
- 1840 – First schools set up.
- 1844 – Factory act states children could start work from age 8 but had to have 2 hours schooling daily.
- 1851 – Great Exhibition.
- 1861 – Prince Albert dies.
- 1863 – First underground railway opens in London.
- 1870 – Dr Barnardo opens first home for boys.
- 1877 – Queen declared 'Empress of India'.
- 1880 – Children 5-13 required to attend school (but had to pay).
- 1882 – First electric power station in London.
- 1891 – Education made free and compulsory for children 5-13.
- 1897 – Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee (50 years on the throne).
- 1901 – Queen Victoria dies.

Historical Skills and Enquiry:

- To compare similarities and differences of life in Victorian times to now.
- To research Victorian inventions and their uses.