

# VICTORIANS


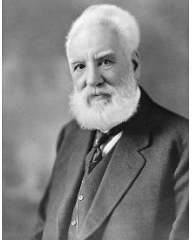

# KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER














## The British Empire in Victorian Times



### Key People

	<b>Queen Victoria</b> (1819 – 1901)	Queen Victoria was Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland from 20 June 1837 until her death. On 1 May 1876, she adopted the additional title of Empress of India. Known as the Victorian era, her reign of 63 years and seven months was longer than that of any of her predecessors
	<b>Alexander Graham Bell</b> (1847 – 1922)	Alexander Graham Bell was a Scottish-born scientist and inventor who was credited with inventing the first practical telephone. Both his mother and his wife were deaf, which influenced him to explore hearing devices – leading to the first US patent of the telephone. He was also a president of the National Geographic Society.
	<b>Charles Dickens</b> (1812 – 1870)	Charles Dickens was an write, who is widely regarded as the greatest novelist of the Victorian era. His works, including <i>Oliver Twist</i> , <i>Great Expectations</i> and <i>A Christmas Carol</i> were extremely popular during his lifetime and have gained further recognition since. His novels often dealt with the harsh conditions experienced by the poor during this era.

### Key facts and Information about the Victorians

<b>The Industrial Revolution</b>		In the Industrial Revolution the manufacturing of goods moved from small shops to large factories. This meant that more people moved into cities. It was a time of new technologies and a new, more modern way of life.	<b>When?</b> Around 1760 – 1860	<b>Key fact:</b> Queen Victoria took to the throne at the very end of the Revolution.
<b>The Public Health Act 1848</b>		The Public Health Act was drafted as a response to requests to improve health conditions in poor areas, where sewage flowed openly through the streets. It is seen as the first step on the road towards improved public health.	<b>When?</b> 1848	<b>Key fact:</b> The Act was actually unpopular with many.
<b>The invention of the lightbulb</b>		Thomas Edison was an American investor and businessman who lived from 1837-1941. He had many inventions, including the long lasting electrical lightbulb. These replaced oil and gas powered lighting, which were often dangerous.	<b>When?</b> 1878	<b>Key fact:</b> Thomas Edison didn't go to school, he educated himself.
<b>Prince Albert dies</b>		Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's husband, died of typhoid aged just 42. Queen Victoria withdrew from public life for many years after his death. The Queen based her later decisions on what she thought he would have done.	<b>When?</b> 14 <sup>th</sup> December 1861	<b>Key fact:</b> After Prince Albert died, Queen Victoria only wore black to show she was in mourning.
<b>Holidays</b>		Many Victorians would flock to the British seaside for their holidays. Most couldn't swim, but many would paddle in the sea. The rich would get changed in bathing machines. Punch and Judy shows were enjoyed by the children.	<b>When?</b> 1871 – Bank holidays Act	<b>Key fact:</b> Certain days were made 'Bank Holidays' where everybody was given the day off work.
<b>Class</b>		Despite the revolution there were still distinct social classes: the upper class, middle class and working class. Life was terrible for the poorest. Awful working conditions and very little food.	<b>Who?</b> The upper classes were made up of very few people.	<b>Key fact:</b> The upper class lived easy lives with servants and cooks.
<b>Life for children</b>		Until the late 19 <sup>th</sup> Century education was reserved for the rich. As many families were so poor, many children instead had to work. They worked long hours for little money.	<b>Who?</b> Rich children were educated and had nannies to care for them.	<b>Key fact:</b> Only in 1880 did Primary schooling become compulsory.
<b>Health</b>		Medicine was nowhere near as advanced as today. Infectious diseases were the greatest cause of death. Most of these, such as smallpox, tuberculosis and influenza, were common, but in 1831 Britain suffered its first epidemic of cholera. Slowly it was understood that it was spread by water contaminated by sewage.	<b>How?</b> Poor hygiene played a large part in poor health.	<b>Key fact:</b> On average middle class people lived to 45. Working class people were lucky to live to half that age.
<b>Workhouses</b>		Workhouses were places where people went if they didn't have enough money to support themselves and their family. They quickly became very overcrowded and unpleasant.	<b>How?</b> People slept in dormitories where disease was easily spread.	<b>Key fact:</b> Many orphans ended up growing up in workhouses.
<b>Food</b>		As with all aspects of life there were vast differences between the diets of the rich and poor. The poor survived on little more than potato scraps and rotten vegetables.	<b>What?</b> Workhouses only offered basic rations.	<b>Key fact:</b> The rich dined on fine foods using expensive cutlery.
<b>Clothes</b>		For the rich, expensive clothes were a must. Clothes were almost always made to measure. Women wore elaborate dresses, blouses and bonnet hats. While men wore high-waisted trousers, cravat tops and top hats.	<b>How?</b> Poor Victorians had to buy their clothes 2 <sup>nd</sup> hand.	<b>Key fact:</b> Fashion trends changed a lot during the Victorian era.

### Timeline

<b>1837</b> King William IV dies and Queen Victoria comes to the throne.	<b>1840</b> Queen Victoria marries Prince Albert	<b>1861</b> Prince Albert dies of typhoid aged 42.	<b>1870</b> The Education Act makes schooling available for all children aged 5-12.	<b>1876</b> Alexander Graham Bell invents the first telephone.	<b>1878</b> Thomas Edison invents the light bulb.	<b>1880</b> Education is made compulsory and free to all.	<b>1897</b> Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. 60 years as Queen.	<b>1901</b> Queen Victoria dies. The Victorian era comes to an end.
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