

? What were the most significant advancements during the Victorian era?

 People– Who was the most significant figure during this time?

 Power– Why was the empire so important during this time?

 Place in History– What else was going on in the world at this time?

 Purpose– How did the life for the rich and poor differ?

Key Figures

Charles Darwin
Queen Victoria
Isambard Kingdom Brunel
Florence Nightingale
Charles Dickens
Thomas Bernardo
Benjamin Disraeli



Links

Empire– Georgians (Year 5 Autumn Term) and Roman Empire (Year 3)
Industrial Revolution (Year 5 Autumn Term)

Key Knowledge Focus

- ⇒ Queen Victorian reigned from 1876-1901
- ⇒ The working class made up between 70-80% of the population.
- ⇒ Expansion of the Empire by independent companies bought trading opportunities and the arrival of raw materials into Britain– tea, sugar and tobacco
 - New Zealand 1840
 - India 1858
 - Burma 1886
 - Hong Kong 1841
 - China
- ⇒ Discoveries included; the light bulb (swan Eddison 1879), Penny farthing 1872, Paddle Steamers (Brunel) 1838, Electric railway 1883.
- ⇒ Industrial revolution changed the working class from farmers to mill workers and factory workers.
- ⇒ Political changes—1918 Women over the age of 30 got the right to vote , abolition of slavery, public health 1848, Elementary education 1870, compulsory education 1880.
- ⇒ Full adult suffrage, with no property requirement, was achieved with the second Representation of the People Act (1928)
- ⇒ 1801 Empire extended over 1/5 of the world
- ⇒ **Hungry Forties 1840's** Poor harvests, potato plight– 1 million died, 2 million emigrated.
- ⇒ In contrast the industrial revolution had an incredible rate of change.
- ⇒ Scramble for new colonies in Africa.
- ⇒ 1877 Benjamin Disraeli proclaimed Queen Victoria as ' Empress of India'

The Victorian British Empire

- ⇒ The Victorian British Empire dominated the globe, though its forms of rule and influence were uneven and diverse. The traffic of people and goods between Britain and its colonies was constant, complex, and multidirectional. Britain shaped the empire, the empire shaped Britain, and colonies shaped one another. British jobs abroad included civil and military service, missionary work, and infrastructure development.
- ⇒ Much of this expansion involved violence, including the Indian Mutiny (1857–59), the Morant Bay Rebellion (1865) in Jamaica, the Opium Wars (1839–42, 1856–60) in China, and the Taranaki War (1860–61) in New Zealand. India became central to imperial status and wealth.
- ⇒ India became central to imperial status and wealth.
- ⇒ Britain took control of large parts of Africa
- ⇒ Britain's status as a world political power was bolstered by a strong economy, which grew rapidly between 1820 and 1873. This half-century of growth was followed by an economic depression and from 1896 until 1914 by a modest recovery.
- ⇒ **Exploration and Discovery** When Captain Robert FitzRoy embarked on the HMS Beagle to survey the South American coast and conduct longitudinal measurements around the globe, he needed a naturalist to come on board with him. **Charles Darwin** was that young naturalist!
- ⇒ The expedition was initially planned to last two years, but it stretched to almost five. It embarked from Plymouth, England on 7th December 1831 and didn't return until 2nd October 1836. During that time, Darwin made extensive observations, published as The Voyage of the Beagle.

Key Vocabulary

Topic

Empire
Poverty
Industry
Labour
Cotton Mill
Workhouse
society

Skill

Contiguity and change
Evidence
Significance
Sources
Lines of enquiry

Chronology

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Key Knowledge Focus

How did Life differ?

- ⇒ **Poverty** Millions of poor working class suffered dreadful conditions until the end of the Victorian age. Work house life and work was brutal. Factory acts from 1830's limited working hours. 1880 Education act made education compulsory for all up to the age of 10. State 'board' school along with church schools attempted to improve the education available to lower classes.
- ⇒ More people were living in cities, but hygiene and sanitation was more important thanks to people like Florence Nightingale.
- ⇒ The inventions of machines in factories replaced jobs that people used to do, but people were needed to look after the machines and keep the factories clean.
- ⇒ Factories were built in cities, so people ended up moving to the cities to get jobs. Half the population in Britain lived in cities by the end of the Victorian era.
- ⇒ Cities became crowded, busy and dirty, but discoveries about hygiene and sanitation meant that diseases like cholera were easier to prevent.
- ⇒ People in the Victorian era started to use electricity for the first time, and to listen to music by playing records on the gramophone.
- ⇒ Steam trains made travel a lot easier, and rich people started to go on holidays to the seaside in places like Blackpool and Brighton.
- ⇒ At the beginning of the Victorian era in 1837, most people would have used candles and oil or gas lamps to light their homes and streets. By the end of the Victorian era in 1901, electricity was available and rich people could get it in their homes.
- ⇒ Victorian inventions like the steam engine and innovations like steel-making led to machines being made that could produce lots of the same thing at once.
- ⇒ Outbreak of cholera in London in 1853-1854 that killed 11,000 people—By the end of the Victorian era, London had a better sewage system and sanitation was a bigger concern – plus, people knew more about how diseases are passed from one person to another.
- ⇒ Other famous Victorians who believed that proper hygiene and sanitation were needed to be healthy were Florence Nightingale and Dr. Joseph Lister.

The World

- ⇒ 1853-56 Crimea War– Russians vs Ottomans, Britain and France
- ⇒ 1857-58 Indian Rebellion– East Indian company commanders vs Sepoys (Indian Infantry). In Meerut, eventually won by the East India Company. This was during the time of the British Raj
- ⇒ 1880-81 1899-1902 South African Wars between British and Boer over Boer independence.

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