

Important facts

The Victorian period is named after Queen Victoria who reigned over Britain and a world Empire from her coronation in 1837 to her death in 1901 – 64 years. Life in Victorian England was very different to today.

It was a time of great wealth and poverty, as well as invention and scientific discovery. This included: photography, the telephone, the pedal bike, concrete, petrol, ice cream, jelly babies, electric street lighting and antiseptic.



Photography



Telephone




Pedal bike



Electric street Lighting

Victorian children from working class families worked as chimney sweeps, farm labourers, factory and mill workers and match makers because they were cheap to employ and small enough to do tricky jobs. Only children from wealthier families went to school until ragged schools were formed.

Key Vocabulary

British Empire	Territories controlled by Britain all over the world
Charles Dickens	Famous author who wrote Oliver Twist 
Class	A group of people sharing a similar social rank
Coronation	The ceremony to crown a king or queen
Industrial Revolution	The change that took place in Britain and other countries in the 18 th and 19 th centuries as a result of industrialisation.
Missionary	A member of an organisation undertaking religious or charitable work.
Queen Victoria	Queen of England from 1837 - 1901 
Prince Albert	Husband and Consort to Queen Victoria 
Slums	The squalid section of a city, full of overcrowded houses in poor conditions
Typhoid	An infectious disease caused by contaminated food and water.

The British Empire in 1901

By 1901, Britain ruled over $\frac{1}{4}$ of the world. At this point, the British Empire was made up of around 400 million people. The empire included the entire Indian subcontinent, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and large part of Africa.



Benjamin Disraeli

Benjamin Disraeli served twice as prime minister during the Victorian era. He lived and was buried in High Wycombe. Benjamin Disraeli was good friends with Queen Victoria and she often came to High Wycombe and visited him at Hughenden Manor.

Timeline

1837 – Victoria becomes Queen aged 18.	1840 – Britain claims New Zealand as a colony to head off the French.	1843 – Charles Dickens publishes 'A Christmas Carol.'	1845-1849 – Ireland suffers the Great Potato Famine, causing the deaths of about 800,000 people.	1850 – Workhouses were opened, offering basic food and beds in return for work.	1856 – Britain defeats Russia in the Crimean War.	1861 – Prince Albert dies of typhoid.	1880 – School compulsory for 5-10 year olds	1901 – Queen Victoria dies. Her son, Edward VII, becomes King.
--	---	---	--	---	---	---------------------------------------	---	--