



Year 6 Knowledge Organiser: Advancements and Inventions of the Victorian Era



Victorian Era: The Victorians lived during the reign of Queen Victoria (1837 to 1901). During early Victorian times, there was no electricity. Instead, gas lamps or candles were used for light. There were also no cars. People either walked, travelled by boat or train or used coach horses to move from place to place. However, it was also a time of tremendous change in the lives of British people. In 1837 most people lived in villages and worked on the land; by 1901, the majority lived in towns and worked in offices, shops and factories. Not only did Britain become the most powerful and richest country in the world, with the largest empire that had ever existed, but the number of people living in Britain more than doubled from 16 million to 37 million, causing a huge demand for food, clothes and housing. Because of this, factories and machines were built to meet this demand and new towns sprung up, changing the landscape and the ways people lived and worked. Railways, originally built to transport goods, meant people could travel easily around the country for the first time. Railways brought new foods to towns and cities. Thomas Cook started organising leisure trips in the summer of 1841 when its founder, who gave his name to the company, organised a successful one-day rail excursion at a shilling a head from Leicester to Loughborough (approximately £4 in today's money).

Key Terms:

Monarch - a king or queen who rules over a country

Reign - the rule of a monarch over their country

Industry - the process of manufacturing (making) goods in factories

Revolution - a significant change

Workhouse - a place where those unfit or unable to find work were detained, often indefinitely

Invention - creating something new

Advancement - a development or improvement

Empire - a group of countries ruled over by a single monarch

Timeline:

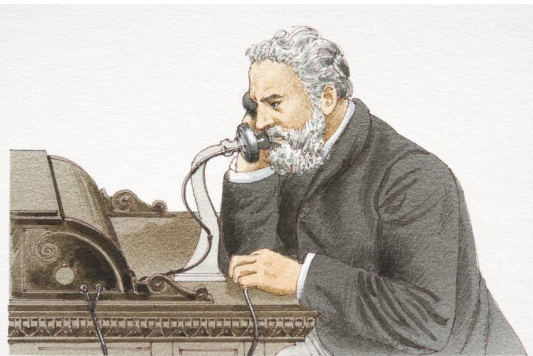


1819	Victoria is born.
1837	Victoria becomes Queen.
1840	Queen Victoria married Prince Albert.
1841	The Great Western Railway from Bristol to London was completed.
1841	Thomas Cook starts to provide tourist holidays.
1850	Workhouses opened for the poorest people.
1851	The Great Exhibition at Crystal Palace.
1861	Death of Prince Albert.
1869	The first Sainsbury's shop open in Dury Lane, London.
1876	Alexander Bell invents the telephone.
1876	Primary education is made compulsory.
1878	First public electric lighting in London is installed.
1901	Queen Victoria dies.



Inventions of the Victorian Era:

The Victorian period saw many major developments that made travel, communications and trade easier for many people. Many of the things we take for granted today, such as photography, telephones, electric light bulbs and cars were invented during Queen Victoria's reign. In 1876, Alexander Bell invented the telephone. The first complete sentence transmitted was, "Watson, come here; I want you,"



British Empire:

When Queen Victoria came to the throne, Britain already governed areas of six continents, but during the Victorian Era the empire expanded to cover more than a quarter of the world's population and it was said that the sun never set on the British Empire. With supremacy at sea, Britain took on the role of global policeman, sometimes called the Pax Britannica. Britain was extremely proud of its empire and use events such as the Great Exhibition of 1851 to showcase its exoticism, wealth and diversity. The empire brought huge riches to Britain, as well as new skills, foods and discoveries.

Queen Victoria:

Queen Victoria is one of the longest reigning monarchs in British history, outlasted only by Queen Elizabeth II (our current Queen). Widowed early in life when her German husband Albert died of typhoid, Victoria initially withdrew from public appearances, but regained popularity during a time of significant change and advancement.



Enquiry Questions:

Does technological advance mean the same thing as progress?



Could the 19th Century be called 'The Age of Improvement'?

How does the British Empire compare with the Roman Empire?

Which Victorian invention do you think is most important to modern life?

Websites you can visit:



<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/victorians.html>

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/history/general-history/victorian-facts/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/victorians/>

Remember: if you add "Key Stage 2" to your google search, you will get results aimed at junior school children! Always check with an adult if there is a website that you are unsure about.

Quotes:

"The important thing is not what they think of me, but what I think of them."

Queen Victoria

"Say well is good, but do well is better." JJ Reynolds, 1847

"Cleanliness is next to Godliness." Victorian saying.