

### Knowledge

#### Famous Inventions

Henry Bessemer / Steel (1854)  
Christopher Sholes / Typewriter (1874)  
Alexander Graham Bell / Telephone  
(1876) Phonograph (1877)  
Thomas Edison / Lightbulb (1878)

#### Schools

After the Education Act of 1870 was passed, many schools were built with a focus on reading, writing and arithmetic. Boys and girls were separated with boys learning woodwork whilst girls were taught about housework. Children wrote with chalk on slate and schools were very strict. All children wrote with their right hands and both the cane and a dunce's hat were used as punishments.

#### Rich and Poor

There was a big difference between rich and poor in Victorian times. Rich people could afford lots of treats like holidays, fancy clothes, and even telephones when they were invented. Poor people – even children – had to work hard in factories, mines (until the Mine Act of 1842) or workhouses. They didn't get paid very much money. Rich people could afford to buy the new inventions coming out.

### The Victorian Era

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.

The Georgian era (1714-1837) a period in British history named after the Hanoverian kings George I, George II, George III and George IV.

The Victorian era (1837-1901) was the period of Victoria's reign, from 20 June 1837 until her death on 22 January 1901.

The Edwardian era (1901-1914) is the last period in British history to be named after the monarch who reigned over it.

#### Websites to explore:

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/victorians/websites.htm>  
<http://primaryfacts.com/famous-victorians/>  
[https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/to](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zcjsxhc)



### Books to read:

Cogheart: Peter Bunzl  
Street Child: Berlie Doherty  
Gaslight: Eloise Williams  
Rose Campion and the Stolen Secret: Lyn Gardner  
The Clockwork Crow: Catherine Fisher  
Twelve minutes to Midnight: Christopher Edge  
Any Sherlock Holmes stories  
A Christmas Carol: Charles Dickens

Don't forget that Charles Dickens wrote many other novels. One of our favourites is Oliver Twist.

### Key Vocabulary

coronation	the formal service of a making a person king or queen of a country.
Industrialized (industrial revolution)	where heavy factory industries have been widely developed.
Parliament	the House of Lords and the House of Commons who meet to advise the queen.
Workhouse	places set up by the government which had harsh rules where poor people with no money could go for shelter and food.
monarch	a person who reigns over a kingdom or empire – a King or Queen
reign	the period of rule of a monarch.
British Empire	lands that Britain controlled all over the world
invention	action of inventing/developing something; process or device.

#### Local places to visit:

The Workhouse: an interactive family tour, try Victorian crafts or pick up a Mary Mouse pauper guide to learn more about what life was like at The Workhouse, Nottinghamshire.

Newstead Abbey: a beautiful historic house set in a glorious landscape of gardens and parkland within the heart of Nottinghamshire. Newstead was home to the poet Lord Byron between 1808 - 1814. Inside the Abbey, there is much to explore including Victorian room settings, and the poets private apartments.

Visit the National Trust website for more places to visit further afield with Victorian history.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lists/explore-places-with-victorian-history>

