The Knowledge

Supporting the National Curriculum



Knowing More

Remembering More

Learning More

Victorians



Key Dates

Victorian timeline

1819	Victoria is born.
1825	The Stockton and Darlington Railway opens. It is the first steam railway in the world.
1829	Robert Peel starts the police force.
1834	A new Poor Law is passed that stops people giving money to the poor. Anyone who is poor or in need must go into the workhouse instead.
1837	Victoria becomes Queen.
1837	The Houses of Parliament are built.
1840	Queen Victoria marries Prince Albert.
1842	The Mines and Collieries Act prevents underground work for women and girls, and boys under 10.
1851	The Great Exhibition opens at Crystal Palace.
1853	The Crimean War begins.
1859	Charles Darwin's On the Origin of Species is published.
1861	Prince Albert dies.
1870	The Education Act makes education compulsory for children between the ages of five and 13.
1879	Thomas Edison makes the first electric light bulb.
1891	The Elementary Education Act makes school free for all children up to age 15.
1901	Oueen Victoria dies.

Key Facts

• The Victorian era was the time when Queen Victoria was on the throne. It lasted from 1837 until 1901. It was a time of huge change in Britain. The introduction of steam power revolutionised transport, factories and farming leading to the industrial revolution. Social change saw the rise of the suffrage movement, the struggle for women's right to vote. Working conditions and education also improved during the Victorian era.

Key Vocabulary

Empire – A group of countries ruled by one monarch.

Factory – A place where goods are manufactured.

Punishment – Inflicting a negative consequence as a result of someone's crime.

Reign – The time when a monarch is on the throne.

Moral – Relating to behaviour that is considered by most people to be correct.

Test Yourself

- Which year did Queen Victoria begin her reign?
- What type of power was introduced in this time which revolutionised transport and farming?
- When did Queen Victoria marry Albert?
- When did Queen Victoria's reign end?

What I would like to know...