What impact did the Victorian period have on our lives today?

History
Year 6
Autumn Term

Overview

The Victorians lived over one hundred and fifty years ago during the reign of Queen Victoria (1837 to 1901). Victorian times means during Victoria's rule. During Victorian times, there was no electricity, instead gas lamps or candles were used for light. There were no cars, so people either walked, travelled by boat or train or used coach horses to move from place to place. Britain managed to build a huge empire during the Victorian period. 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, most lived in towns and worked in offices, shops and factories. In this unit, we will explore what life was like during the Victorian period and what inventions shaped the era.



Knowledge & Understanding

In this unit, the pupils will:

- Use dates and a wide range of historical terms when sequencing events for the Victorian era.
- Develop chronologically secure knowledge of the events of the Victorian era.
- Demonstrate knowledge of an aspect or theme in British history that extends their chronological knowledge beyond 1066.

Historical Skills

In this unit, the pupils will:

- Analyse links and contrasts within and across different periods of time including short-term and long-term time scales.
- Describe the impact of historical events and changes.
- Regularly address and sometimes devise historically valid questions and hypotheses.

Home – School Link Project

During this topic, pupils can choose to:

- Research and create the clothing worn by Victorian children for **Victorian Day** in which children will experience a day in the life of a Victorian school child, taking part in activities that school children participated in 150 years ago.

Topic Vocabulary

empire – *an extensive group of states of countries ruled over by a single monarch, an oligarchy, or a sovereign state*

Industrial Revolution – *The Industrial Revolution was a period of major changes in the way products were made*

invention – *something, typically a process or device, that has been invented*

Monarch – *a person who reigns over a kingdom or empire (a king, queen, or emperor).*

penny-farthing – *an early type of bicycle, made in Britain, with a very large front wheel and a small rear wheel*

reign – *the period of rule of a monarch*

royalty – *people of royal blood or status*

workhouse – *where poor people who had no job or home lived. They earned their keep by doing jobs in the workhouse.*

Zoetrope – *a 19th century optical toy that produces the illusion of motion by displaying a sequence of drawings or photographs showing progressive phases of that motion*

Working Historically

cause and consequence – *something that makes things happen and the result that follows*

chronology – *in time order*

conclusion – *to demonstrate a final opinion about a topic*

evidence – *something that gives proof of or a reason to believe something*

historian – *a person who studies or writes about the past*

interpretation – *the process of explaining or understanding the meaning of something*

reliability – *to make a conclusion about the trustworthiness of a source*

source (primary/secondary) – *a piece of writing or an object that historians can use to find out about the past*