



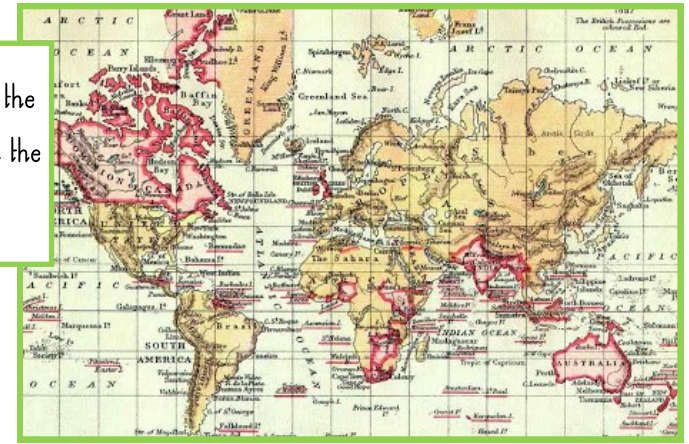
Greatworth Primary School

Beech Class  
Knowledge  
Organiser

The Big Question:

How was life different for rich and poor children in the Victorian times?

At this time, a quarter of the world's population lived in the British Empire!



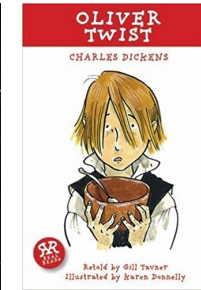
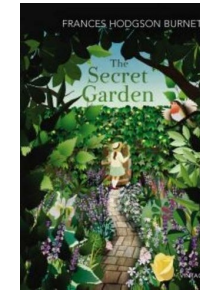
Queen Victoria



Prince Albert

The Victorian period is the time between 1837 and 1901 during which Queen Victoria reigned over Britain. It was a time of huge contrast between how rich and poor people lived. It was also a time when the British Empire expanded and of exciting discoveries and invention.

Key texts



Key Vocabulary					
chronological	In time order or the order in which it really happened	philanthropist	Someone who works to improve the welfare of others.	factory	A building where things are made
reign	The time that someone is king or queen	social reformer	Someone who wants to change and improve something such as law or social system.	workhouse	Place where poor people would live in exchange for working.
empire	A group of states or countries rules over by a single monarch (king or queen)	Act of Parliament	A document which creates a new law or changes an existing law.	Ragged School	A free school for poor children— named after the ragged clothes worn by the pupils
empress	A female monarch who rules an empire	invention	A new thing that someone has made	arithmetic	Mental maths work
period	A length of time	industrial revolution	A time of major change in the way products were made	leisure	Free time away from work








Where does it fit into British history?

Timeline of British history with icons and dates:

- Stone Age** (15,000BC - 2,500BC)
- Bronze Age** (3,000BC - 800BC)
- Iron Age** (800BC - AD43)
- Romans in Britain** (AD43 - AD410)
- Anglo-Saxons** (AD449 - AD1066)
- Vikings** (AD793 - AD1066)
- Normans** (AD1066 - AD1154)
- Tudors** (AD1485 - AD1603)
- Civil War & Revolution** (AD1603 - AD1714)
- The Industrial Revolution** (AD1760 - AD1820 (approx.))
- Victorians** (AD1837 - AD1901) ← **Current Period**
- World Wars** (First World War: 1914 - 1918; Second World War: 1939 - 1945)
- Modern Britain** (1945 - Present Day)

Key Dates	
1838	Queen Victoria becomes queen aged 18
1840	Queen Victoria married Prince Albert
1842	Coal Mines Act— children under 10 can no longer work in mines
1844	Factories Act— Children aged 8-13 can no longer work for more than 6.5 hours per day
1875	Chimney Sweepers Act— Children under 10 can no longer work as chimney sweeps
1880	The Education Act makes schooling compulsory for children aged 5-10
1901	Queen Victoria dies and Edward VII becomes king.

Did you know that the Victorian age was the 'birth of childhood'? Because of new working laws, all children were entitled to some education and leisure time for the first time in history!

	Rich	Poor
Clothing	<p>Wealthy children wore miniature versions of adults clothes. Rich people could afford more clothes made from luxurious fabrics in a wider range of colours. Boys would wear suits (including sailor suits!) Girls would wear dresses with lace petticoats and bonnets and ribbons in their hair.</p> 	<p>Poor children would not have many clothes and they would have to last as long as possible. If they were torn or ripped, they would be repaired. To be practical, clothes would be made from dark coloured wool or cotton. Some people could not afford to wear shoes! Girls would wear simple dresses, shawls and mob caps. Boys would wear trousers, shirts and flat caps.</p> 
Homes	<p>Wealthier homes would be comfortable, clean and spacious filled with all of the latest inventions such as flushing toilets and telephones. They would often employ housekeepers, housemaids, nannies, gardeners and other staff to do much of the work.</p>	<p>Homes would be cramped and simple. Because of poor sanitation and lack of food, disease and death were very common! The very poorest children would live in workhouses where they would work long hours in exchange for uncomfortable lodgings, simple food such as gruel and strict rules.</p> 
School	<p>Boys would go to school and girls would often learn at home with a governess. Children were taught reading, writing and arithmetic and to recite things as well as some practical skills such as sewing for girls and woodworking for boys.</p>  <p>At the beginning of the Victorian time, only wealthier children could afford to go to school. The introduction of 'Ragged Schools' and The Education act of 1880 meant that by the end of the period, all children received some education.</p>	
Work	<p>Rich children did not need to work.</p> 	<p>Children as young as five would work long hours in dangerous jobs to help their families earn money. Common jobs included chimney sweep, coal miner, factory worker, street seller, farm worker and house maid.</p> 
Leisure	<p>Rich children would have much leisure time as they did not need to work. They would play with toys bought for them by their parents, read books, go on outings, play sports and more.</p> 	<p>Poorer children would have less leisure time as they were expected to work and help out with chores. They would make up their own games and play with toys made from wood or household objects.</p>



**Lord Shaftesbury** was a politician, philanthropist and social reformer who improved the lives of children. He helped create important laws to improve working conditions for children such as the Factories Acts, Coal Mines Act and Chimney Sweepers Act.



**Dr Thomas Barnardo** was inspired by a homeless boy he met in London to set up the first Ragged School for poor children. He also set up homes for poor children and by his death in 1867 had taken in nearly 60,000 children! His charity continues to look after vulnerable children to this day.



**Charles Dickens** was a famous Victorian author and philanthropist. He was very poor as a child and so used his stories (such as Oliver Twist and A Christmas Carol) to show people how difficult life was for poor people.