

The Victorians

Year 5

Key end points of the 'Victorians' unit are:

- Queen Victoria is the second longest reigning monarch in British history, ruling from 1837 to 1901. She had such a profound impact on the culture and life of the nineteenth century, that the period is commonly known as the 'Victorian Age'.
- The industrial revolution caused cities to grow rapidly. This was called urbanisation. Slums in the city had poor sanitation and were overcrowded.
- The 1834 Victorian Poor Law reformed relief for the poor and as a result, many poor people were forced to live in the workhouse.
- The Great Exhibition took place in 1851. It was designed to showcase amazing objects and inventions from around the world.
- Many aspects of life by 1900 were not that dissimilar to today. Street lighting, medicines, trains, the motor car, department stores and compulsory education were all in existence by then.

This unit builds on from the unit on from the *Industrial Revolution* and looks at life in Britain during the Victorian Age. Before teaching this unit, children should have learned about what happened during the *Industrial Revolution* and have some knowledge of the *British Empire*.

During this unit, the children learn about the significant life of Queen Victoria: both her personal life and some of her decisions as a monarch, including her involvement with the British Empire. In addition to the political context of this time, this unit also delves deeper into the social aspects of Victorian Britain, looking in particular at the lives of the poor. During the unit, children will consider the similarities and differences between the lives of the rich and the poor in Victorian England. Children will have access to primary sources to explore what it was like to live in a Victorian slum or Workhouse and discuss how attitudes to the poor were reflected in new legislation. Teachers may wish to consider the local context in this unit and use local primary sources.

The children will also learn about more positive aspects of the Victorian period, looking at the significance of the Great Exhibition and the growth in technology and new discoveries made by the Victorians. This will build on children's previous learning about the Industrial Revolution. The children will complete the unit looking at the legacy of the Victorians, analysing the similarities and differences between life in the 1900s and life in Britain today and considering the question, what has changed/stayed the same since the Victorian era.

During this unit, children build on their knowledge of the substantive concepts of **monarchy**, **industrialisation**, **urbanisation**, **empire**, **imperialism** and **poverty**. This unit will provide a historical context when the children learn about the Suffragette movement in Year 6, where the children learn about Queen Victoria's views on women's suffrage. The children will also gain some background knowledge regarding the British Empire and Britain's position in the late 19th and early 20th century, which will support their understanding when they begin their unit on World War I.



Key substantive concepts covered in this unit are **monarchy, industrialisation, urbanisation, empire, imperialism** and **poverty**.

Key disciplinary concepts covered in this unit are **sources & evidence** (e.g. using primary sources, including local examples), **continuity & change** (e.g. how life during, and after, the Victorian era has changed/stayed the same) **significance** (e.g. the historical significance of Queen Victoria- how she shaped Britain) and **similarities and differences** (e.g. looking at the lives of the rich and the poor).