

Year 3 History – How Did the Victorians Change Britain?



Key Vocabulary	
Reign	The time a king or queen rules over a country
British Empire	The lands which Britain controlled which were all over the world
Workhouse	A building where very poor people in Britain used to work in exchange for food and shelter
Slum	Poor housing area
Industrial Revolution	This was when new manufacturing processes (how things are made) were introduced, with more factories to make things which would have been once done by hand.

Key Changes in the Victorian Era

- 1842** – The Mines Act stopped women and children under 10 working in mines
- 1844** – The Factory Act stopped children between 8-12 from working more than 6½ hours a day
- 1847** – Factory Act limited women and children under 18 to a 58-hour working week
- 1864** – Boys under 10 were banned from being chimney sweeps
- 1874** – Ten Hour Factory Act meant that people could not be made to work for more than 10 hours a day and children under 14 could not be employed fulltime
- 1878** – Factory and Workshop Act banned the employment of children under 10
- 1880** – Education Act made it compulsory for children up to 12 to go to school, but most children had to pay
- 1891** – Education is free and compulsory for all 5-13-year olds













The Victorian Era

The period of time from 1837 to 1901 when Queen Victoria reigned over Britain.

- Queen Victoria reigned for 63 years!
- There was a huge contrast between how the rich and poor Victorians lived.
- Queen Victoria led the expansion of the British Empire across the world.
- There were many new inventions and exciting discoveries!

Enquiry Questions:

- Q1: Who was Queen Victoria and how long did the Victorian era last for?
- Q2: What was life like for children during the Victorian era?

1800s- Railway Network 	1838- Photography 	1840- Penny Black Stamp 	1843- Christmas Cards 
1852- British Pillar Post Box 	1852- Public Flushing Toilet 	1863- London Underground Railway 	1872- The Penny-Farthing Bicycle 
1876- Telephone 	1879- Electric Bulb 	1885- Petrol Motor Car 	1895- X-rays 



The British Empire in 1901.

By 1901 (the year in which Queen Victoria died) Britain ruled over about 1/4 of the world. At this point, the British Empire was made up of around 400 million people (the population of England was only around 40 million). The empire included the entire Indian subcontinent, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and large parts of Africa.