

# History Knowledge Organiser Y5/6 – Victorians



Key Vocabulary	
<b>Industrialisation</b>	The process of using machines to mass produce goods in factories once made by skilled workers (artisans)
<b>Urbanisation</b>	When large numbers of people move from the countryside to the cities to work in the factories. The size of towns and cities grow rapidly.
<b>Monarch</b>	A sovereign head of state, especially a king, queen or emperor
<b>Slums</b>	Overcrowded, dirty city streets where poor factory workers lived in 'back-to-back' houses.
<b>Cholera</b>	A killer disease of the 19 <sup>th</sup> Century caused by drinking water contaminated with human waste.
<b>Workhouse</b>	Where people who had no job were sent. It was like a prison with uniforms, boring jobs and harsh rules.
<b>Steam power</b>	Creating steam to power engines and machinery.
<b>Census</b>	A count of all the people in the country on a particular day.
<b>Domestic service</b>	To do household work such as cleaning and cooking in someone else's house
<b>Factory acts</b>	Laws passed by government to protect people working in dangerous factories (particularly women and children).
<b>Leisure</b>	Holidays and other fun activities which people do when they are not working.
<b>Ragged schools</b>	A school set up to teach poor children.
<b>Reformer</b>	A person who makes changes in order to improve things.
<b>Reign</b>	The length of time a king or queen rules a country.
<b>British Empire</b>	Lands that Britain controlled all over the world (for example, India).



Victoria was the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland from 20<sup>th</sup> June 1837 until 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1901. On 1<sup>st</sup> May 1876 she was granted the additional title of 'Empress of India'. Her reign of 63 years and 7 months was the longest of any British monarch aside from Queen Elizabeth 11, and was known as the Victorian era. She married her cousin Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha in 1840 – their nine children married into noble families all across Europe, earning her the nickname 'the grandmother of Europe'. When Albert died in 1861, Victoria sank into deep mourning. She died in 1901 at the age of 81.

## Victorian Timeline

1837 – Victoria becomes Queen aged 18.

1840 – Britain claims New Zealand as a colony to head off the French.

1843 – Charles Dickens publishes 'A Christmas Carol.'

1845-1849 – Ireland suffers the Great Potato Famine, causing the deaths of about 800,000 people.

1850 – Workhouses were opened, offering basic food and beds in return for work.

1854 – Britain defeats Russia in the Crimean War.

1861 – Prince Albert dies of typhoid.

1880 – School compulsory for 5-10 year olds

1901 – Queen Victoria dies. Her son, Edward VII, becomes King.

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## The British Empire in 1901

By 1901 (the year in which Queen Victoria died) Britain ruled over about ¼ 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, 'Dominion' (self-governing) status was awarded to 'white' countries (e.g. Australia), however, in some countries (e.g. Africa) rule was more authoritarian.



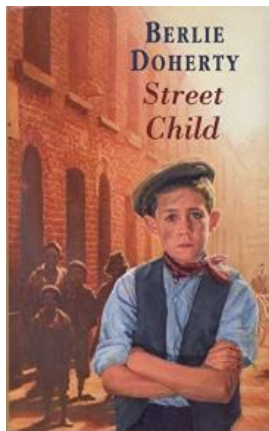
## Lord Shaftsbury

28<sup>th</sup> April 1801- 1<sup>st</sup> October 1885. Lord Shaftsbury was a politician who champions the poor and working class in Britain. He was one of the key individuals to bring reform to the factories, improving working conditions and limiting the length of the workday. Lord Shaftsbury was also the president of the Ragged School Union, which promoted the education of poor children.

## Isambard Kingdom Brunel

9<sup>th</sup> April 1806- 15<sup>th</sup> September 1859. Isambard was a civil engineer who designed tunnels, bridges, railway lines and ships. In 1833 he became the chief engineer for the Great Western Railway and was responsible for the construction of several viaducts and new lines. Isambard also redesigned and constructed several of Britain's major docks, including: Bristol, Cardiff and Milford Haven.

## Key texts:



## Key Knowledge

- To place the Victorian period within the history of the UK
- To explore the life of Queen Victoria
- To discover important inventions of the Victorian era
- To find out what the Industrial Revolution was and how it affected Britain
- To discover what life was like for poor children including work, education and play
- To find out about health, disease and medicine in Victorian Britain
- To explore what Victorians did during their leisure time
- To study the key social reformers – Shaftesbury and Barnardo
- To find out about the past from census returns within the locality
- To identify changes in the locality within the Victorian period