# **Vile Victorians**

# **Knowlegde Mat - Autumn 2**

Topic Vocabulary
commerce - buying and selling
goods and services for a profit
industry - a group of companies
that all produce the same thing
Industrial Revolution - a time of
major change in the way products
were made
invention - a new thing that
someone has made
legislation - process of making and
enacting laws
migrate - move to a different area
to find work or better living
conditions

reign - to control a country

rural - the countryside

**subterranean** - beneath the surface of the Earth

urban - a built up area of buildings

#### Innovation

Innovation marked by the development of steam engines, railways, and telegraph systems, represented a remarkable leap forward in technology and industry, far surpassing the accomplishments of earlier civilisations you've studied like the Egyptians (heiroglypics), Stone Age (weapons), Romans (roads), and Greeks (Olympics), and significantly shaping the modern world.

## The Victorian Era

The period of time between 1837 to 1901 when Queen Victoria **reigned** over Britain. During her 63 year **reign**, there was a huge contrast between how the rich and poor Victorians lived. Queen Victoria led the expansion of the British empire and saw major changes to all aspects of Britain due to exciting discoveries and **inventions**.



**KEY KNOWLEDGE** 

### **Key Inventions**

**Victorian Postage System** - characterised by the introduction of postage stamps, standardised postal rates, and the widespread expansion of postal services, which played a crucial role in the development of the Victorian era's communication and **commerce** from 1837-1901. The Penny Black was also the first adhesive stamp!

**The Football League** - The creation of the British Football League, often known as the Football League, occurred in 1888 and marked the establishment of the world's first organised football league system.

**Sewers** - the innovative system of underground sewage and drainage networks developed during the Victorian era (approximately 1837-1901) in the United Kingdom. They were

Key Dates

designed to effectively carry away wastewater and sewage from **urban** areas.

**The London Underground** - also known as the Tube, refers to the world's first underground urban railway system established in London during the Victorian era, specifically in 1863. This **subterranean** transport network revolutionised urban transit by providing a fast and efficient means of transportation within the city.

#### **Victorian Railways**

Victorian railways revolutionised people's lives by providing faster, more affordable, and widespread transportation. They enabled easier access to distant places for work, leisure, and **commerce**, catalysing urbanisation, tourism, and economic growth. The railways also facilitated the movement of goods and created new opportunities for employment.

1838	Queen Victoria crowned aged 18.
1840	Queen Victoria married Prince Albert.
1842	Children under 10 can no longer work in underground mines.
1844	Children aged 8-13 can no longer work for more than 6.5 hours per day.
1856	Each county has to have its own police force.
1861	Prince Albert died of typhoid.
1864	Children under 10 can no longer work as chimney sweeps.
1870	Schools are built for children aged 5-10.
1872	The first FA Cup Final takes place.
1880	The Education Act makes schooling compulsory for all children aged 5-10.
1901	Queen Victoria dies and Edward VII becomes King.

#### The 1833 Factory Act

The 1833 Factory Act was a pivotal piece of legislation in the United Kingdom during the early Industrial Revolution, aimed at improving labour conditions. It established regulations that set minimum working ages for children, limited their working hours, required education, and introduced safety measures in factories and cotton mills.

This act was a significant step toward addressing the harsh working conditions and child labour practices of the time.



### **The British Empire**

The British Empire was one of the largest and most powerful empires in history, established and expanded by the British Crown from the 16th to the mid-20th century. It comprised various territories, colonies, and dominions across the world, often held through colonisation or conquest, and played a significant role in shaping global history, trade, culture, and politics during its existence.

#### Workhouses

Designed to provide accommodation and employment for the impoverished and destitute, their conditions were often harsh and intended to discourage dependency on welfare.

They were a central part of the Poor Law system (1834) and

represented a last resort for the poor, where individuals and families would receive basic necessities in exchange for labour, but often endured challenging living conditions and a loss of personal freedom.



Enquiry Question: The Victorian Era: Dark Age or Golden Age?