



Victorians Spring Term 2019

Life in Victorian England was a time of great wealth and poverty, as well as invention and scientific discovery. Quality of life depended on whether you were rich or poor. Poor Victorians had a hard life, often ending up in the workhouse or with an early death. They often worked long hours, lived in damp, filthy conditions and many children died of disease. Many children (before the education reform) had to work to support the family.

Key Vocabulary

Census: A count of all of the people in the country on a particular day

Industrial Revolution: The era of rapid and great change in industry and manufacturing

Monarchy: A form of government with a monarch at the head. A king or queen is the head of state. The king or queen is not voted for democratically; they become monarch through birth into the royal family

Paupers: very poor people who have no way of feeding or supporting themselves

Reign: The period of rule of a monarch

Workhouse: Places set up by the government where poor people with no money could go and be given a bed, food and work. Many had very harsh rules.

Key Dates

1819: Victoria born

1837: Victoria becomes Queen after her uncle, King William IV, dies

1842: Mines Act stopped children under 10 working in the mines

1850: Workhouses opened

1880: Education Act – school became compulsory for children aged 5-10

1897 Diamond Jubilee

1901: Queen Victoria dies and is succeeded by her son, Edward VII

Britain ruled the *British Empire*. Victoria was *Empress* of India as well as Queen of Britain, Canada (the biggest country in the Empire) and small countries such as Jamaica. Trade with the Empire helped make Britain rich. Many of the places on the map have since changed their name following their independence from British rule.

