



Background understanding for teachers and parents

The Victorian period of history is named after Queen Victoria who reigned monarch of our country, and a large empire, from 1837 until her death in 1901. Life in Victorian times was rather different to how it is today. It was a time of both great wealth and great poverty, as well as invention and scientific discovery.

N.C Area of Study: A local history study

When? (Chronology of Key Events)

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
1851	The Great Exhibition
1856	Each county has its own police force
1861	Prince Albert died of typhoid
1870	Schools are built for children aged 5-10
1871	The first FA Cup Final takes place
1901	Queen Victoria dies and Edward VII becomes king

What? (Key Vocabulary)

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
reign	To control a country
rural	The countryside
revolution	A big change in something

Who? (Notable People)

Queen Victoria (1820-1901)	The Queen who reigned during this time who the period is named after.
Isambard Kingdom Brunel (1806-1859)	A railway engineer who constructed railways, bridges and steamships
Florence Nightingale (1820-1910)	A wealthy lady who travelled to the Crimean War to nurse dying soldiers
William Morris (1834-1896)	A designer and artist who was very popular during this time.
Charles Darwin (1809-1882)	A great Victorian scientist who first wrote about human evolution in his book Origin of Species
Dr Barnado	A missionary who set up homes for poor, homeless children with food, shelter and training. Rescued around 60,000 children.
Charles Dickens (1812-1870)	A writer who wrote about the rich and poor. Author of Oliver and A Christmas Carol.

Impact (on us at St Joseph the Worker)

Following on from Manchester's cotton example, Irlam was a hive of industrial action throughout the Victorian period with the introduction of the Steel Works, Margarine Works and Basket Works to name but a few factories. Irlam's position on the canal made this sort of trade and industry possible.

Robert Louis Stephenson's 'The Rocket' is meant to have passed through Chat Moss.

Key Enquiry Skills

Do we still use any of the Victorian inventions today? How did the working conditions impact on aspirations and life conditions for children?

Moral Focus Question

A friend says, our lives would be exactly the same without the Victorians. Can you prove them wrong?