

Life as a Victorian Child

Poor children would have to work in dangerous places like coal mines, textile mills or as chimney sweeps. Rich children would have toys to entertain them but their toys were nothing like our toys now. There was no electricity which meant no TV, games consoles or mobile phones.



Education

School became mandatory during the Victorian Era for all children. The school day would usually start at 9am and finish at 5pm (with a break for lunch from 12pm - 2pm). There was often 70 - 80 children in one class with just one teacher. Children didn't have fun lessons like we do now. They were taught by reading and copying things down, or chanting facts until they remembered them.

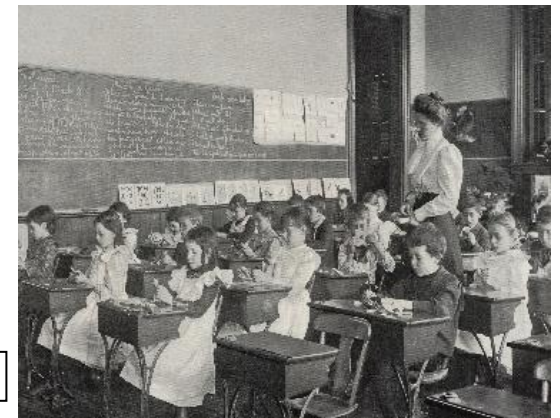
Clothing

Clothes were made to measure. People did not go to shops like we do and see rails of clothes. Every item of clothing bought had to be made especially for the person. Seamstresses and tailors were responsible for making clothes. There were also milliners, glovers, and hatters who would help to complete the look.

Poor Victorians bought their clothes from second-hand, third and fourth-hand shops. Their clothes had previously been worn and discarded, but still in good enough condition to wear.

Key Facts

- The Victorians were the people who lived during the **reign** of Queen Victoria.
- More and more **factories** and **workhouses** were built for people to work in, so towns and cities grew.
- The railways grew so people could travel faster and further.
- The poor were very poor - they worked in **workhouses** and **factories**.
- Many rich people had servants.
- There was no electricity.
- Not many people could read or write but Queen Victoria made all children go to school.
- Children were made to work in dangerous places such as in coal mines or as chimney sweeps. They worked very long hours for very little money.



Joseph Swan

Key Vocabulary

factory	A building where things are made, often by machines.
mining	Digging coal and other products from deep below the ground.
reign	The time that someone is king or queen.
typewriter	A machine used to type letters onto paper.
workhouses	Places where poor people, including children, would live in exchange for working. The conditions were very bad.

Lighting Technology

At the start of the Victorian era most houses were lit by candles and oil lamps. Fittings included chandeliers and sconces (fixed to the wall). However, these were mainly used on special occasions, and most ordinary events after sunset took place using candlesticks, candelabra (bracketed candlesticks) and oil lamps or by the light of the fire. By the end of the period, gas lighting and electricity was common in urban homes. Thomas Edison and Joseph Swan (from Sunderland) are credited with inventing the lightbulb.



Joseph Swan



Significant Person from the Past

Florence Nightingale was a famous British nurse who lived between 1820 and 1910.



Why is she remembered?

Florence Nightingale went to the Crimean War to nurse wounded soldiers. She even nursed soldiers during the night and became known as 'The Lady with the Lamp'. She and her nurses saved many lives. Florence Nightingale is remembered for making changes to nursing and showing people that nursing was a very important job.

Victorian Inventions



telephone



motorcar



typewriter



bicycle



bank holidays and seaside holidays



moving films

Queen Victoria becomes Queen.

The Houses of Parliament were built.

1837

1840

Queen Victoria married Prince Albert.

Children under 10 no longer allowed to work in coal mines.

1842

1844

Railway tracks were built all over Britain.

Post boxes were built.

1850s

1851

Ice cream was available to the masses.

All children had to go to school.

1880

1901

Queen Victoria died.