

VILE VICTORIANS

Diagram: - The British Empire in Victorian Time		Important Events		
<p>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.</p> 		<p>The Industrial Revolution</p> 	<p>In the Industrial Revolution, the manufacturing of goods moved from small shops to large factories. This meant that more people moved into the cities. It was a time of new technologies and a new, more modern way of life.</p>	
		<p>The Public Health Act 1948</p> 	<p>It was drafted in response to requests to improve public health conditions in poor areas, where sewage openly flowed through the streets. It was seen as the first step on the road to improve public health.</p>	
		<p>The Crimean War</p> 	<p>Was fought between Russia and an alliance of France, the UK and the Ottoman Empire. The allies eventually prevailed. The war became known for tactical incompetence and the mistreatment of soldiers.</p>	
		<p>Life for Children</p> 	<p>Until the late 19th Century, education was reserved for the rich. As many families were so poor, lots of children instead had to work. Only in 1880 did primary education become compulsory.</p>	
Prominent Victorians		<p>Prince Alberts Death</p> 	<p>Victoria's husband died of typhoid aged only 42. Victoria withdrew from public life for years. The queen is said to have based her later decisions on what he would have done.</p>	
		<p>Queen Victoria 24th May 1819- 22nd January 1901. Queen Victoria was the Queen of the UK and Ireland (1837- 1901) and empress of India (1876- 1901). Her reign was the longest of any monarch in British history until Elizabeth II surpassed this in September 2015. She married her cousin, Albert of Saxe-Coburg Gotha, on the 19th February 1840. They had nine children and most married into other royal families across Europe.</p>	<p>People's Charter</p> 	<p>The People's Charter advocated democratic reform on the basis of six points: one man, one vote; equal electoral districts; payment of members of parliament; elections by secret ballot; removal of property qualifications for MPs; and parliaments elected every year</p>
<p>Charles Dickens 7th February 1812- 9th June 1870. Charles Dickens was a author, who is widely regarded the greatest novelist of the Victorian era. His works, including <i>a Christmas Carol</i> and <i>Oliver Twist</i>, were extremely popular during his lifetime. They have gained even further recognition since. His novels often highlighted the plight of the poor.</p>	<p>Lord Shaftsbury 28th April 1801- 1st 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.</p>	<p>The Great Exhibition</p> 	<p>This event was the brainchild of Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, and was designed to provide a showcase for the world's most advanced inventions, manufactures and works of art. It was housed in the massive 19-acre Crystal Palace, designed by Joseph Paxton.</p>	
<p>Mary Seacole 23rd November 1805- 14th May 1881. Mary Seacole was a British-Jamaican business woman and nurse. She set up a hospital known as the 'British Hotel' behind the lines during the Crimean War. She, and her team, cared for the dying and injured from both sides. She was self-funded and when she returned to London she had large debts and there was a public campaign to raise money.</p>	<p>Isambard Kingdom Brunel 9th April 1806- 15th 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.</p>	<p>Empress of India</p> 	<p>The Conservative prime minister, Benjamin Disraeli, suggested to the queen that she should be proclaimed empress. Despite objections from the Liberal opposition, who were not consulted, the title was endorsed and Victoria used it officially from 1877.</p>	
		<p>Queen Victoria's Death</p> 	<p>Victoria died at Osborne House on the Isle of Wight at the age of 81. As queen-empress she had ruled over almost a quarter of the world's population. Although wilful and narrow-minded in some respects, she established firm precedents for a hard-working 'constitutional monarch', operating as a head of state above the fray of party politics.</p>	