

# Vile Victorians



## Key Themes

**Child labour (exploitation):** Poor children were used to perform mundane and very dangerous jobs.

**Victorian Housing:** The rise of Victorian slums in the poorest areas of cities.

**Victorian School Day:** Contrasting the routines of the Victorian classroom with those of the modern day.

**The extent of the Empire:** The spread of the British Empire across the globe.

**Victorian advancements in technology:** Key inventions of the Victorian era.

**Steam Railways:** The age of steam, enabling travel to be faster and allowing trade to be carried out over greater distances.

**Urbanisation:** The movement of people from the rural countryside to the big cities.

## Key People

**Queen Victoria:** Queen of the UK from 1837 to 1901. She is one of the longest serving monarchs in British history (63 years). The Victorian era is named after her.

**Prince Albert:** Husband of Queen Victoria, died in 1861. Created the 'Great Exhibition' of 1851 at Crystal Palace.

**Isambard Kingdom Brunel:** Victorian engineer and one of the main architects of Britain's industrial revolution. Built railways and designed bridges, tunnels, viaducts and passenger ships.













**Charles Dickens:** Famous Victorian author. He wrote: Oliver Twist, A Christmas Carol and Great Expectations.

**Florence Nightingale:** 'The Lady With The Lamp' was a famous British nurse who helped to make hospitals more sanitary places and wrote books about how to be a good nurse.

**Dr Barnardo:** Founder of the charity Barnardo's in 1867 - providing homes and education for poor children.

## Glossary

Industrial Revolution	The changes that took place in Britain and other countries during the 18th and 19th centuries as a result of industrialisation.
Workhouse	Huge buildings built for very poor people to live in and work.
Slum	The poorest, most overcrowded and uncared for part of a town or city.
British Empire	Territories all over the world that were controlled by Britain.
Urbanisation	The movement of people from the countryside to large towns and cities in order to find work.
Mudlark	A job for a poor child who scavenges in river mud for items of value.
Chimney sweep	A person, often a small child, who would clean chimneys using a long brush.

1800s- Railway Network 	1838- Photography 	1840- Penny Black Stamp 	1843- Christmas Cards 
1852- British Pillar Post Box 	1852- Public Flushing Toilet 	1863- London Underground Railway 	1872- The Penny-Farthing Bicycle 
1876- Telephone 	1879- Electric Bulb 	1885- Petrol Motor Car 	1895- X-rays 



1837	1840	1842	1851	1861	1864	1870	1901
Queen Victoria becomes queen at age 18.	Marries Prince Albert.	Children banned from working in mines.	The Great Exhibition.	Prince Albert dies.	Children no longer allowed to work as chimney sweeps.	Education Act passed—school now compulsory up to age 12.	Queen Victoria dies aged 82.