

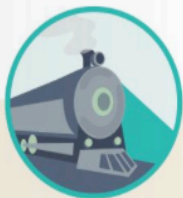
Rule Britannia

Transport

Steam trains had been invented just before Victoria came to power, but her reign saw a massive expansion in their use. By the end of her reign, there were over 30,000km of railway lines in use, with over a billion passenger journeys each year.

In 1863 the first underground railway opened in London, though with steam-powered trains, the experience was smelly, noisy and smoky.

Better steam engines also helped with transport, so Britain's goods could travel by train to ports and then by ships around the world.



see ZOOM 1



Gothic Literature

Some of the most popular gothic fiction was created during the Victorian Era. This literature shows a fascination with horror and death.

"Penny dreadfuls" were cheap literature, sometimes only costing a penny, that offered sensational stories of horror and crime. These stories, such as *Sweeney Todd: The Barber of Fleet Street*, were aimed mostly at young working-class men.

Other gothic literature from this period includes *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* and *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. These famous works, still popular today, explore the darker side of the human soul.

see ZOOM 2



The Victorian Era was a time of many changes, with Britain at the forefront of revolutions in technology, literature and the way we see ourselves.

Communication

In 1837 the electric telegraph was created, allowing messages to be sent in code. This invention spread rapidly, with telegraph instruments appearing in every post office in the country.

A telegraph cable was laid between England and France in 1851, and by

1866 a cable connected Britain and the USA. Later in the Victorian era, telephones would also arrive.

This revolution created a massive increase in the flow and speed of information, much like the more recent impact of the internet.



Empire

The British Empire reached its peak size during the Victorian era, including around a quarter of the world's population.

This huge population was a perfect market for Britain's goods, helping Britain's industries to expand massively.

At the time, many British felt that they were providing a great service, bringing civilisation and Christianity to a grateful world. This was known as 'The White Man's Burden'.



Social Equality

Some of the first steps towards modern social policy were made during this time. These may seem very limited from the contemporary viewpoint, but it shows how poor legal rights had been.

In 1842, children under 10 were banned from working underground,

saving many from death in the dangerous mining industry. By 1880, education had become compulsory for children aged 7 to 10.

The 1870s also saw the first women allowed to enter medical school and register as doctors.



Who was Victoria?

Victoria was Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland from 1837 until her death in 1901. The Victorian era was named after her and covers the duration of her reign.



1819

Victoria is born

1838

- Slavery is abolished in the British empire
- The railway boom starts

1859

Darwin's 'On the Origin of Species' is published

1876

- Victoria becomes empress of India
- The first phone call is made

1881

Electric light is used for the first time in homes

1885

Benz invents the gasoline-powered car

1901

Victoria Dies