



Society

The **Industrial Revolution** started in the 1700s but is often associated with huge changes to the way people lived during the Victorian era. There was a huge growth in steam-powered machinery, and in the number of factories making products to trade all over the world. As people **migrated** from **rural** villages to work in these factories, cities grew rapidly. The increase in **population** in **urban** areas meant there was a need for more food, goods and housing. Cities became overcrowded and polluted. Children often had to work, too, frequently in dirty and dangerous conditions. Some laws were made, such as the **1833 Factory Act**, which tried to protect children from the worst conditions. There were enormous differences in wealth at this time, and the poorest people could be sent to the workhouse for accommodation and food.



Culture and pastimes

People in the Victorian era wanted to learn more about the world around them. New learning in science was of particular interest and often challenged religious beliefs and ideas— the work of Charles Darwin and his theory of natural selection, for example. This increased curiosity together with a belief in the importance of education led to an explosion of technological innovation and many new inventions. Some of Britain’s most famous authors, including Charles Dickens and the Bronte sisters, were writing during this time.

The Victorian Era is the name given to period of Queen Victoria’s reign (1837-1901). It was a time of enormous technological, scientific, economic and social change. New inventions changed how people worked, lived and spent their leisure time. The **British Empire** grew, and Britain came to rule over one quarter of the world’s population. These changes brought immense wealth for some, but many people, including lots of children, still lived in terrible poverty, and worked in mines and factories. However, the Victorian era also saw many more children attending school, and significant progress in healthcare and medicine.

Topic related vocabulary:		Topic related vocabulary:	
British Empire	the name given to countries under the control of Britain during this time in history	urban	relating to towns and cities, and the ways of life of people who live there
migrate	the movement of people from one area to another, often for economic reasons such as finding work	1833 Factory Act	a law that was created to protect factory workers from dangerous working conditions
rural	relating to the countryside and, the ways of life of people who live there	workhouse	a place for the poorest people to receive food and housing. They were expected to work hard in return

Topic related vocabulary:	
population	the number of people who live in a particular place
Industrial Revolution	a huge social and technological change in the way that products were produced and how people worked
revolution	a big change in the way things are done, often happening very quickly

