

Revolution

During the 1800s, the Industrial Revolution spread throughout Britain. The Industrial Revolution rapidly gained pace during Victoria's reign because of the power of steam. Queen Victoria ruled the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland for more than 63 years. The period of her reign, from 1837 to 1901, became known as the Victorian Age. This was the era of super-strict schools, some terrible working conditions and a time when some people lived in slums while others prospered. There were also great changes and developments within Britain in science and technology, culture, and daily life.

Key facts

- The Industrial Revolution is the term used for the period between 18th and 19th centuries when predominantly rural and agricultural areas in Europe and America became urban and industrialised.
- The main thing that happened during the Industrial Revolution was that machines were developed that could perform many of the jobs and tasks that had previously been done by people (or in some cases, animals, such as horses).
- The poor and working classes often suffered with grim jobs and terrible living conditions.
- Young children were forced to work as soon as they were old enough to earn money for their families.
- Children worked long hours and sometimes had to carry out some dangerous jobs working in factories.
- In 1833, the Factory Act was made law. It was now illegal for children under 9 to be employed in textile factories
- Queen Victoria was only 18 when she came to the throne.
- Her husband, Prince Albert, died in 1861 at the young age of 42. She mourned his death for almost 10 years. For the rest of her reign she wore black.
- The Victorian era was a great time for inventions: the telephone, the radio, the first flushing toilet, the camera, railway trains, vacuum cleaners and sewing machines were all invented by Victorians!

Prince Albert

Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria, organised 'The Great Exhibition' in 1851 where Great Britain demonstrated its inventiveness and modern industrial designs and ideas to the rest of the world. He used the money raised to build some of the museums which still stand in London today.



Key Vocabulary

Census	an official survey of the population of a country that is carried out in order to find out how many people live there and to obtain details of such things as people's ages and jobs.
Cotton mill	A building housing spinning or weaving machinery for the production of yarn or cloth from cotton
Governess	A woman teacher employed in a private household to teach and train the children.
Industrial Revolution	The name historians have given to the period in history when there was a large and rapid change in the way things were made. Instead of things being hand made in small workshops, they were made more cheaply in large quantities by machines in factories.
Industry	Work and processes involved in collecting raw materials, and making them into products in factories.
Labour	Very hard work, usually physical work.
Parliament	The group of people who make or change its laws, and decide what policies the country should follow.
Reformer	Someone who tries to change and improve something such as a law.
Reign	When a king or queen reigns, he or she rules a country.
Revolution	A successful attempt by a large group of people to change the political system of their country by force.
Scullery	A small room next to a kitchen where washing and other household tasks were done.
The workhouse	A place where poor people who had no job or home lived. They earned their keep by doing jobs in the workhouse.