

Year 6 Topic

Revolution



Let's hop on a steam train and travel back in time to the Victorian era!

During this learning project, we'll use non-fiction books to research Victorian education and people, including famous inventors, reformers and Queen Victoria herself. Then, we'll write non-chronological reports and biographies using a range of source materials. We'll write on slates, learn the three 'Rs' and take part in cooking, sewing and woodwork lessons, just like a child in a Victorian school. We'll make popular Victorian dishes and play with Victorian toys. 'Drill' activities will have us following instructions to march, stretch and jump in formation. We'll learn about crime and punishment and find out what life was like in a Victorian slum. How things have changed! We'll discover what happened during the Industrial Revolution and learn about significant inventions. Copying the style of famous Victorian paintings, we'll experiment with block printing techniques.

At the end of the project, we'll stage an exhibition to showcase the work we have done during the project.

Help your child prepare for their project

The Victorian era influenced the way we live now in many ways. Why not visit a local museum to learn about what Victorians' lives were like in your area? You could also visit the library to find out about local Victorian history. Alternatively, make a collage timeline of key events in the Victorian period.

What will you choose to do?

- Find out about health and medicine in Victorian times, including ghastly and deadly diseases like typhoid, smallpox, influenza and cholera. It was pretty grim!
- Research significant Victorian battles such as the famous Battle of Oltenita in 1853, the Battle of Isandlwana in 1879, or Rorke's Drift in 1879. Produce maps or plans to explain battle strategies.
- Find out about significant women of the Victorian era, such as Mary Seacole, Florence Nightingale, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson (the first English woman to qualify as a doctor), Charlotte Brontë, George Eliot (whose real name was Mary Ann Evans) and Mrs Beeton.
- Read some abridged Charles Dickens, such as *Oliver Twist and Other Great Dickens Stories* by Marcia Williams, or watch film versions of his stories and create your own 'Junior Guide to the Greatest Novelist of the Victorian Period'. Include with reviews of films and books to appeal to other children and give them a thumbs-up or star rating.
- Make some simple Victorian recipes, such as Apple Charlotte, Banbury cakes and custard patties. Create a recipe book using photos of your creations.
- Find out about Victorian railways using Bradshaw's Guide (bradshawsguide.org). Read the town descriptions in the original guides and find out how much these places have changed using modern information sources.
- Write a newspaper article about the London matchgirls' strike of 1888. Find out about the gruesome side effects of phosphorous on the health of the girls in the factory. Create campaign posters to help advertise the strike.
- Find out about life as a child worker in factories and coal mines or as chimney sweeps and scullery maids. Write a 'Day in the Life of a...' diary entry and add illustrations.
- Research the Victorian Empire and create annotated maps showing the extent of British rule. How does this link to today's Commonwealth? Perhaps choose a single area to focus on, such as Britain in India.

