

# A Guide to Victorian Britain

Have you ever wondered what it was like to live in Britain during Queen Victoria's reign? This guide will offer you an insight into what life was like during an infamous time of great change.

## Queen Victoria

Queen Victoria took to the throne in **1837** and remained queen until her death in **1901**. Therefore, the time in between these dates was known as *The Victorian Era*.

Queen Victoria ruled Britain with her husband, Prince Albert, until his death in 1861. Together they had nine children. Her eldest son, Prince Albert Edward, became King after her death.

It is reported that Queen Victoria was very popular for most of her reign and she is known for starting many popular traditions which are still followed today (such as the sending of Christmas cards).



## Living Conditions

Living conditions varied drastically during the Victorian Era. As a result of the Industrial Revolution, people moved from rural areas to busy towns and cities. By 1901, half of the population in Britain were living in cities. This meant for some, that living conditions were cramped, dirty and unhealthy.

In 1850, workhouses opened, which provided a place for people to stay if they could not afford a place of their own. In exchange, the people living here would have to work long hours in the dangerous factories.

For those who could afford nice homes, new inventions meant big changes to how they lived. Electricity was introduced to some homes during the Victorian Era, as were telephones.

## Work

The Industrial Revolution made it harder to find agricultural work in Britain. Most people tended to work in factories producing goods such as cotton. The invention of steam power made the factory work easier in some ways, however factory employees did not earn much and work was dangerous. Many worked 12 –14 hours a day and even small children worked in these conditions.

## Life for Children

Life for Victorian children was very different, depending on whether they were from a rich or poor family.

School was not compulsory, therefore it was often only attended by children from well-off families. Children from poorer families were expected to work to earn money.

Children from richer families were not required to work and often got to enjoy family holidays and their own clothes and toys.

## Clothing

Like with a lot of things in Victorian Britain, what you wore depended upon how rich you were. What can you spot in the images below?



## Inventions

There was an influx of new inventions during the Victorian era, many of which we still use today. These included:

Steam train	Telephone	Radio
Motor car	Electric Lights	Postage Stamp

## A Guide to Anglo-Saxon Britain

Now it's your turn! Create a guide on Anglo-Saxon Britain to teach someone what life was like then. You could use similar examples to the guide above, or you may have some ideas of your own. You can include a mix of text and images, but any writing should be in your own words.

### Some questions to consider:

What were homes like during the Anglo-Saxon Era?

How was the country run? Was there a leader/people in charge?

What jobs were there for people?

What did people look like? What did they wear?

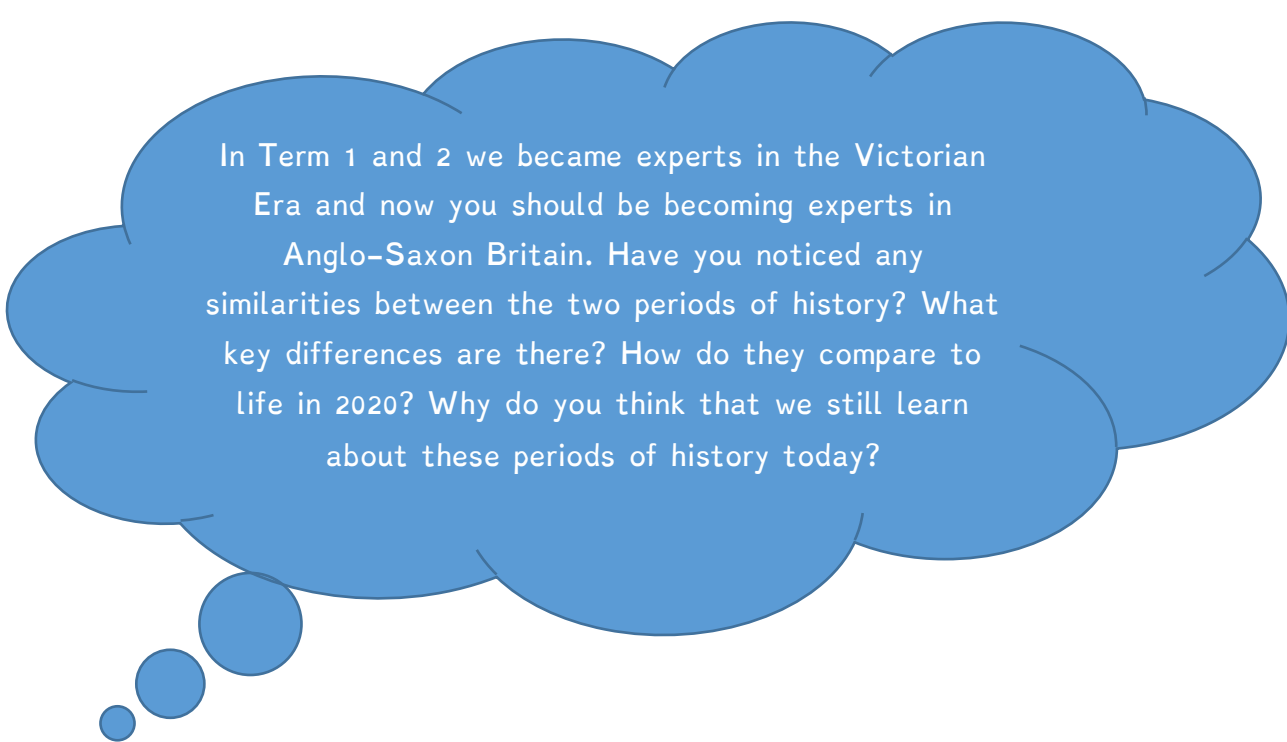
What was life like for children?

### We will be expecting to see:

- Headings and sub-headings
- Proper nouns spelt correctly, using a capital letter
- Fronted adverbials, punctuated correctly
- A range of simple, compound and complex sentences
- Brackets used correctly
- Historical vocabulary

### Where can I find the information I need?

In your last Unexpected Adventure Trail you did lots of research on the Anglo-Saxons. All of this learning should help you with this task. You may also wish to look back at the Anglo-Saxons Guide that was released with your last Unexpected Adventure Trail. This is still available on the school website and has links to helpful videos and websites. Remember to take care when using the internet for research: only use trusted websites and make sure you have permission from an adult to carry out your research.



In Term 1 and 2 we became experts in the Victorian Era and now you should be becoming experts in Anglo-Saxon Britain. Have you noticed any similarities between the two periods of history? What key differences are there? How do they compare to life in 2020? Why do you think that we still learn about these periods of history today?