Were the Victorian Times a Dark Age or a Golden Age?

Key Vocabulary

Primary source - an original record, object, or firsthand account created by someone who was actually there during a historical event or time period.
Secondary source - information created by someone who did not see or experience an event firsthand
Class - a group or rank of society
Invention – a new object or idea that has been created
Industry – the process of making products by using machines and factories
Revolution – a huge change in the way things are done
Trade – buying or selling goods
Manufacture – to make something on a large-scale using machinery
Population – people who live in a particular place
Rural – countryside
Pollution – harmful gases, smoke and chemicals in the environment







Rowan Class Knowledge Organiser

Victorians (Autumn 2)



Top Takeaways

Having studied this unit of work, you should be able to:

- Put the Victorian period into historical context
- Use historical sources to find out about the Victorian period
- Find out about some famous Victorian inventions
- Explain how new inventions changed people's lives during the Victorian period
- Find out what the Industrial Revolution was
- Explain how Victorian Britain was changed by the Industrial Revolution
- Find out how the introduction of the railways changed travel and trade
- Explain different viewpoints about the new railways
- Find out what sort of jobs were taken by Victorian children
- Explore what life was like for Victorian working children

Key Knowledge

The Victorian period saw immense change in Britain.

- The Victorian era in British history corresponds mainly to the reign of Queen Victoria from 1837-1901.
- Many famous inventions were created.
- Farm machinery replaced jobs that people used to do.
- The development of railways influenced trade and travel.
- The Industrial Revolution saw a mass migration of people in towns and cities.
- Industrialists became very rich and the country became wealthier.
- Young children worked long hours in various jobs.
- School became compulsory for children aged 5 to 10.

