



British History: Orange Class – Victorians

How did the Victorian period help to make Oldham the way it is today?

Key Vocabulary

ragged school	A type of charity school where poor children would be educated
Slums	An area of bad housing with poor hygiene and sanitation
governess	A tutor who taught rich girls skills including sewing, singing, dancing and languages
textile mill	A factory where cloth and linen were created
workhouse	A place where the very poor, young and elderly got food and a bed in return for work
gruel	A thin form of porridge fed to people in the workhouse
reign	The length of time that a monarch is king or queen.
poverty	Not having enough money for basic needs.
British Empire	The areas of the world ruled by the United Kingdom.
transport	The movement of people or things from one place to another.
education	The process of learning.
invention	The creation of something new.
wealth	A large amount of money or possessions.
telephone	A device for communicating over distance.



Key People

Queen Victoria
 Prince Albert
 Dr Barnardo
 Isambard Kingdom Brunel
 Alexander Graham Bell

Key Places

Royton
 Oldham
 The UK
 London

Key Dates

1837	Queen Victoria crowned (aged 18 years).
1840	Queen marries her cousin, Prince Albert.
1840	First ragged schools set up.
1844	Children had to have 2 hours schooling daily
1847	factory act states women and children under 18 could only work 10 hours or less daily.
1861	Prince Albert dies.
1863	First underground railway opens in London.
1870	Dr Barnardo opens first home for boys.
1871	First FA cup for football.
1877	Queen declared 'Empress of India'.
1880	Children 5-13 required to attend school
1891	Education made free and compulsory for children 5-13
1901	Queen Victoria dies.



British History: Year 3 – Victorians

How did the Victorian period help to make Oldham the way it is today?

Key Knowledge

The Victorian period is named after Queen Victoria who reigned over Britain and a world Empire from her coronation in 1837 to her death in 1901 – 64 years. Life in Victorian England was very different to today. It was a time of great wealth and poverty, as well as invention and scientific discovery.

Education – During Victorian times going to school first became free and compulsory for all children aged 5 – 13 years old.

Work – Working long hours in mills was common in Victorian Oldham. The work was dangerous and until 1880 many children also had to work instead of going to school. Mills provided lots of jobs and helped Oldham to grow into a larger town.

Transport – At the start of the Victorian period horse-drawn carriages and steam trains provided transport for wealthy people. By the end of the Victorian period, there were bicycles, more trains, trams and motor cars.



Key Knowledge

Inventions – key Victorian inventions include the postage stamp, the telephone, electric trains, the motor car and the electric light bulb. Life in Oldham would be very different today without these things. By the 1950s the main parts of the UK were connected – Isambard Kingdom Brunel build a number of bridges and tunnels to allow the trains to cross difficult terrain. The railways allowed quick transport of goods and people; fresh food from farms and mail from all over the country could easily be moved hundreds of miles. Seaside holidays became popular with families leaving the polluted cities to places like Eastbourne, Brighton and Blackpool.

Infections were better understood and vaccination against dangerous diseases like smallpox were discovered.

Communications between parts of the UK and abroad became much more efficient, with the mail service, the electric telegraph and finally the telephone which was invented by Alexander Graham Bell. At the start of the Victorian era only rich land owners were able to vote, this changed over time and in 1884 all men could vote – women had no right to vote at all.