



Waterbeach Community Primary School

Curriculum Capture for Year 5 History: The Victorians

Theme: Structures

Timeline of Key Events	
1837	Victoria was crowned Queen and the Victorian era began.
1840-50	5,000 miles of railway track were laid down and rail travel became common (including the Great Western Railway).
1850	The first workhouses opened, giving poor people a place to live in exchange for their work.
1851	The Great Exhibition took place in Crystal Palace in London.
1853-56	The Crimean War took place (where Florence Nightingale worked as a nurse).
1880	The Education Act decreed that children aged 5-10 had to go to school.
1901	Queen Victoria dies, Edward VII becomes king, and the Victorian Era comes to an end.

Vocabulary	
Industrial Revolution	A period of major change that took place just before the Victorian Era. Transportation and manufacturing (how we make things) advanced because of new machines and engines that were invented. Cities grew around factories and lots of people moved from the countryside into these new areas.
Workhouse	A place where poor people could live in exchange for working all day. They received food, clothes, education and medical care. However, conditions were poor, families were split up and children did not learn to read or write.
Construction	The building of something (bridges, roads, railways, canals, factories etc).
Colony	An area or country under the control of another country).

Key Knowledge	
Royal Family	Rise of Engineering
Queen Victoria's reign spanned over sixty years, making her the longest reigning monarch of Britain (until the current Queen broke her record). Victoria's first language was German, but at three years old she learned English and French. Later, she even learned Hindustani as she became Empress (ruler) of India. At the age of twenty-one, she married her cousin Albert (a German prince). They had nine children, forty grandchildren and 37 great-grand-children. She is known as "the grandmother of Europe" because eight of her descendants became rulers of other countries.	The Victorians were people obsessed with construction: iron steamships, thousands of miles of new railway lines, enormous bridges, thundering factory machines... Famous engineers (designers of machines, engines and structures) such as Isambard Kingdom Brunel created a network of transport that linked the country together with canals and railroads. In 1951, Prince Albert organised "The Great Exhibition" in Crystal Palace: its goal was to show the world that Britain was a leader of technology and industry. They showed off machines, new inventions and scientific instruments.
British Empire	Cities and Manufacturing (making things)
At its height, the British Empire was the largest in history, covering a quarter of the Earth's land area; no wonder it was known as "the empire on which the sun never sets". The empire was made up of areas controlled by the Britain, including Canada, India, Australia and large parts of Africa. While the British Empire introduced new technology and ideas to these places, it also fought a lot of wars and conquered by force (often fighting armies that didn't have access to guns or modern equipment). The Empire made Britain an extremely wealthy country.	During the Victorian Era, many cities in the North of England (such as Manchester, Sheffield and Liverpool) grew enormously and became centres of trade. Materials like cotton and silk were imported (brought in from other countries) so factories could make things with them. The iron and steel industry also grew massively, producing all the metal needed to build the new bridges, railways tracks and buildings. Factories became very popular places to work and were often surrounded by slums (cheap housing) that weren't very nice to live in.

Key People	
Queen Victoria	Born May 24th 1819, Queen Victoria is the very person that the Victorian era is named after. When King William IV died in 1837, Victoria took the throne and ruled until her death on January 22, 1901. After the death of her husband, Alfred, she wore black for the rest of her reign to show that she was in mourning.
Isambard Kingdom Brunel	Born in 1806, Brunel changed transportation in Britain. He designed the railway line between Bristol and London, built streamliner ships that could cross the Atlantic in two weeks, and designed many famous bridges. He was the chief engineer of the Great Western railway and designed Paddington station in London.

