

Victorian Britain- Changes for children

Subject Specific Vocabulary	
Reform	When changes are made to something.
laws	Rules passed by a government which everyone has to follow.
Chimney sweep	A person whose job it is to clean out the soot from a chimney.
Coal mining	The job of removing coal from the ground.
Mill	A factory with machinery for a particular process.
workhouse	A place where people with no money could live and be given food in exchange for work.
orphan	A person whose parents have both passed away.
education	Education is about learning new knowledge and skills.
industry	Manufacturing goods in a factory.
inequality	A lack of fairness in society, where some people have more and are treated better than others.



Sticky Knowledge about changes for children in Victorian Britain

- There were many changes and achievements in the Victorian Era including child labour reforms.
- In 1837, at the beginning of Queen Victoria's reign, only wealthy or privileged children could afford to go to school. It was common for children from poorer families to go out to work in mines, mills, factories, chimneys and domestic service. These jobs were often dangerous and children worked long hours for little money.
- There were no laws at the start of the Victorian Era to protect working children. There was a gradual raising of awareness of the poor working conditions that children were subjected to. Gradually laws were passed preventing children from working in certain environments, setting minimum age requirements and restricting the hours that children were allowed to work. During this time, Education Acts made it possible for more children to attend school, eventually making it compulsory for 5-10 year olds by 1880
- By the Victorian times, cameras had been invented so there are real photographs of the time. Many more documents, books, artefacts have survived because the Victorian period was more recent than many other historic periods that we have studied.
- The 1870 Education Act made education compulsory for all children aged 5-10 in Britain, although it was not free until 1891.

Exciting Books



Important people

Lord Shaftesbury

Knew it was wrong to use children as cheap labour. He collected evidence from the working children.

Dr Barnardo

Wanted to provide homes for homeless, orphaned and abandoned children. He believed children should receive education.