

History: The Victorians

What were the effects of the Industrial Revolution on Victorian England?

Year 6: Autumn Term 1&2

Queen Victoria was the Queen that presided over a huge industrial and economic expansion of the British Empire and was the first Queen to live at Buckingham Palace. Her reign is regarded as a time of growth and prosperity, as it was a time when Great Britain became the largest empire in the world.



Key Vocabulary	Definition
abolition	The act of officially ending or stopping something
acceleration	The act of moving faster or happening more quickly
economy	The system by which goods and services are produced, sold, and bought in a country
finance	Money available to a government, business, or person
industrial	Relating to factories, the people who work in factories, or the things made in factories
Ragged Schools	Charitable organisations dedicated to the free education of destitute children
revolution	A sudden extreme, or complete change, in the way people live or work
slave trade	The buying, transporting and selling of humans
steam power	Power that is applied to an engine by the force of steam
telegraph	An old-fashioned system of sending messages over long distances by using wires and electrical signals

Key Information

The Industrial Revolution

During the Victorian era, the Industrial **Revolution** was happening – this is when scientific inventions meant that it was easier to make things to sell, and that those things could be sent to places further away than before.

One big reason why the Industrial **Revolution** happened was because of **steam power** – this led to the invention of steam trains, which made it faster to travel and to send goods. Large purpose-built factories were a new idea, full of machines. Steam changed everything. It was faster, more powerful, and could work independently of natural power sources, such as water. Traction engines saw fields ploughed twenty times faster than before, and factories could be anywhere.

At a time of massive population expansion in Britain (from 9 million in 1801 to 36 million in 1911), cities were expanding even faster. In 1750, only about 15 per cent of the population lived in towns. By 1900 it was 85 per cent. This meant that there were far more people around to work in new industries but also caused problems because many more people needed foods and homes.

All of these things during the Industrial **Revolution** meant that lots of products could be made in the same place at the same time – this is called mass production. Before this, it would have been just one tradesman making one thing at a time.

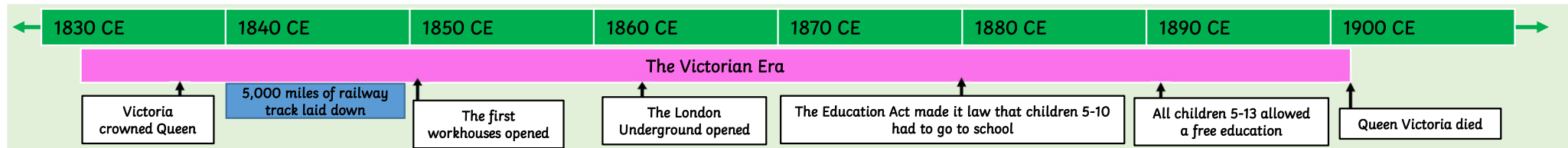
Also during the Victorian Era, Great Britain became the British Empire. Britain governed many countries, kingdoms and colonies all over the world. Many of these places are part of the British Commonwealth today.

Before the Victorian era, it took days – sometimes weeks – to travel places. Inventions such as the steam train and the iron steam ship meant that travel took a lot less time. Better roads, railways and canals were built in the Victorian era making travel for people and movement of goods and crops much easier than it had been before, and in much bigger quantities.

Before the 1800s, education was not free and poor children got what education they could in Dame schools or Sunday Schools. In 1833, the government passed the Factory Act making two hours of education a day compulsory for children working in factories. The government also granted money to charities to help schools for the first time. In 1844, the **Ragged Schools** Union was set up to give schooling to very poor children. In 1880, the Education Act made school attendance compulsory for children up to the age of 10.



Timeline



History: World War Two in Croydon

How did Croydon Airport affect life in Croydon between 1915 and 1959?

Year 6: Spring Term 1

The Battle of Britain and Croydon Airport

On the 10th July 1940, The Hurricanes of No.111 **Squadron** Croydon were scrambled. The RAF Fighters engaged with the **Luftwaffe** off the coast of Folkestone, Kent - this would be the first major engagement of the **Battle of Britain**. Flying Officer Thomas Peter Kingsland Higgs of No.111 **Squadron** attacked a Dornier at high speed and collided with the aircraft. Both aircraft lost a wing and plunged into the Channel. He was the first casualty of the **Battle of Britain** and the first of "The Few" to be "Killed In Action".

Key Vocabulary	Definition
aerodrome	An area of land from which aircraft operate
Air Traffic Control	A service that helps direct aircraft on the ground and in the sky
aviation	Involvement in flying airplanes or helicopters etc
Battle of Britain	A part of the Second World War, in which the Royal Air Force (RAF) defended the UK against attacks by Germany's air force, the Luftwaffe.
civilian	A person who is not a member of the military or police/fire service
Luftwaffe	The German Air Force which attacked Britain during World War 2
memorial	Something (such as a monument) that honours a person who has died
Spitfire	A British plane used in battle during World War 2
squadron	A military unit consisting of soldiers and aircraft
The Blitz	A German bombing campaign against the United Kingdom in 1940/41

Key Information

Croydon Airport in Peace Time

Croydon Airport was the UK's major and only international airport during the period between WW1 and WW2. It was Britain's main airport, handling more cargo, mail, and passengers than any other UK airport at the time. By 1935, Croydon Airport handled 84% of all the UK's air cargo, 49% of all UK passengers and 62% of all the UK's air mail. The airport had the first ever check-in area (Booking hall) with designated space for each international airline, the world's first designated Departure gate, and an octagonally-shaped Departures and Arrivals Indicator - an early version of the electronic Departures and Arrivals information boards now commonplace in airports. The first **Air Traffic Control** Tower in the world was at Croydon Airport. The format designed and constructed at London Croydon Airport is now the standard design of all **Air Traffic Control** Towers.



Croydon Airport in War Time

On the 30th August 1939, Croydon reverted back to its original role of defending Britain from aerial attack and became Royal Air Force Station Croydon. The 15th August 1940 saw massive Luftwaffe attacks on Britain, codenamed "Eagle Day". Just before 19:00, a **squadron** of **Luftwaffe** bombers attacked RAF Croydon with hits on the surrounding factories, airfield, airport terminal and a direct hit on the armoury. The bomb damage due to bomb blasts affected 200 houses and left 180 people homeless. Some 62 **civilians** lost their lives, as did five airmen of No.111 Squadron at RAF Croydon and one airman from Station Headquarters. On the airfield, two **civilian** telephone operators were injured, four airmen from No.111 Squadron and one airman from No.1 RCAF Squadron. Over 180 people were injured in the surrounding factories and houses.



Timeline

