



Knowledge Organiser – Revolutionary Victorians

Years 1 & 2

Who were the Victorians?



- Queen Victoria ruled 1837–1901.
- The time she ruled is called the Victorian era.



- Life was very different: strict schools, simple toys, steam trains, seaside holidays, industry...

Victorian Transport



Steam trains



Horse-drawn carriages



Penny Farthings

- Travel was slower and less comfortable than today.
- The invention of the steam train meant that people could travel further and in less time.

Remarkable People



- Queen Victoria: ruled the country for 64 years!



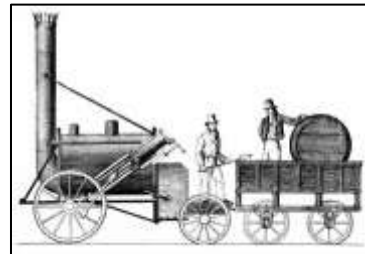
- Florence Nightingale: improved hospitals, made them clean and safe. Showed kindness to others.



- Mary Seacole: cared for soldiers, used traditional medicines, showed kindness.

Then & Now – Impact

- Victorian inventions and changes shaped our lives today.



- Without trains → seaside holidays would be rare and we would have less connections with friends and family.

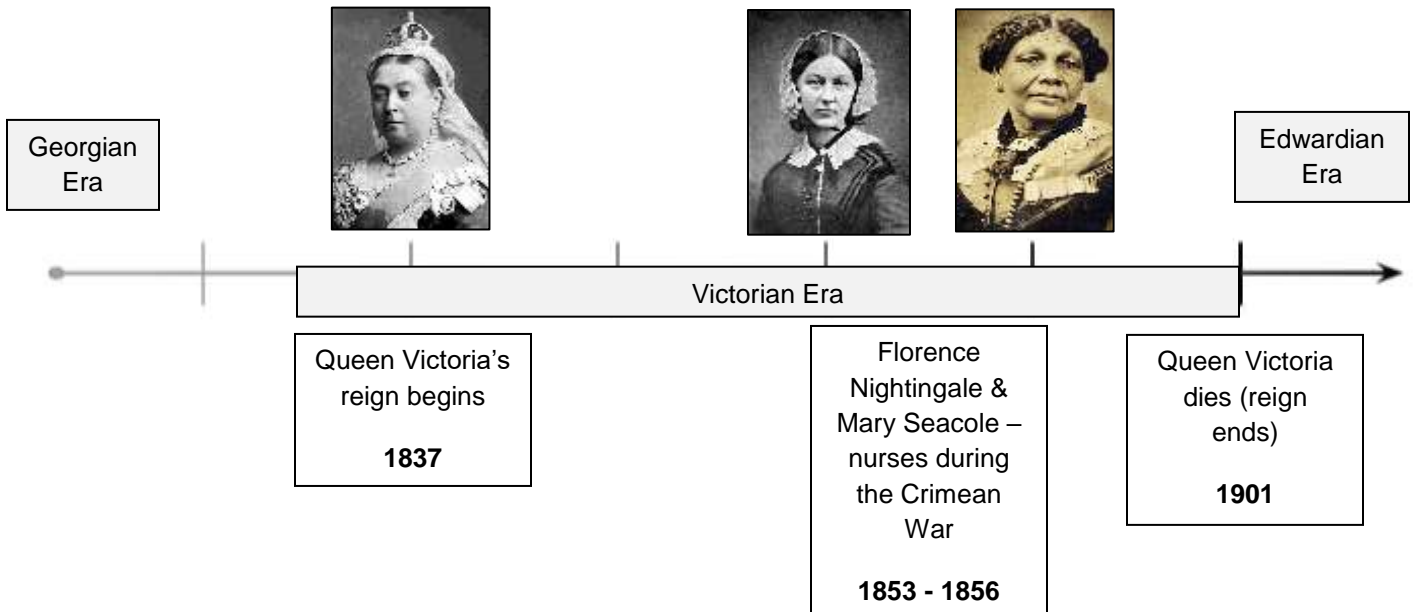


- Without Florence Nightingale & Mary Seacole → hospitals might not be as safe and clean as they are today.



Timeline

- 1837 – Queen Victoria becomes Queen
- 1850s – Florence Nightingale & Mary Seacole help soldiers
- 1901 – Queen Victoria dies



Key Vocabulary To Explore At Home

Surface Knowledge: old, new, Queen Victoria, Victorian, train, steam, candle, space, seat, nurse, hospital, dirty, health, wounded, then, now, both, patterns

Deeper Knowledge: compare, differences, similarities, change, improve, modern, adventurous, safety, Crimean War, illness, disease, danger, developed, advances, invention

Adventurer Knowledge: describe, empathy, advances, technology, reflection, observation, significant, challenges, stressful, battlefield, legacy, exhibit, influence

Home/School Links

- It is important that children have the opportunity to talk about their learning at home
- When in the family home, children should be encouraged to look at modern technology and question what may have come before e.g television
- When playing with toys, parents/grandparents can share knowledge about the toys they used to play with
- In the local community or when travelling, children should be encouraged to think about 'life before the motor vehicle.' In addition, think about how transport has changed in order to get to a location quicker or reach a further destination
- Visit your local library and look for books on Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole.
- Watch child-friendly history videos together (e.g. BBC Bitesize).
- Encourage creative projects – such as making a model of the “British Hotel” or drawing Florence Nightingale’s lamp.

Useful Websites

1. [BBC Bitesize – The Victorians](#)

A brilliant, child-friendly introduction to Victorian life — covering Queen Victoria, schools, work, and inventions with short videos and quizzes.

2. [BBC Teach – The Victorians](#) (KS2)

A collection of short video clips showing what life was like for Victorian children at home, in school, and at work.

3. [National Geographic Kids – Queen Victoria](#)

Fun facts and clear explanations about Queen Victoria’s life and why she was such an important figure in British history.

4. [Florence Nightingale Museum](#)

Short videos, stories, and resources to learn about Florence Nightingale and how she helped change hospitals in Victorian times.

5. [BBC Bitesize – Who was Florence Nightingale?](#)

Child-friendly introduction to The Lady With The Lamp!

6. [Mary Seacole Trust](#)

A simple, clear website sharing Mary Seacole's inspiring story and her lasting legacy.

7. [BBC Bitesize – Who was Mary Seacole?](#)

Child-friendly introduction to Mary Seacole.

8. [The Vile Victorians – Horrible Histories](#)

A fun and informative look at the Victorians

