

# What the Dickens?



Recommended year group: Year 5

Theme focus: Art, Mathematics, RE, Science

Suggested term:

## Theme introduction

What the Dickens? is a theme that is focussed on learning about the Victorian era. Learning in this theme is focussed on History but also includes PSHE, Art and Design Technology. In What the Dickens? we look at key figures who lived during the Victorian period. These include Queen Victoria, Isambard Kingdom Brunel, William Morris and Dr Barnardo. Pupils will learn all about the Industrial Revolution and how the country changed during this time. They will learn about how the Victorians entertained themselves and where they went on holidays, how there was a difference between how the rich and poor were treated and how women finally obtained the vote.

### Driving Question

Was the Victorian era a golden age or a dark time?

### Switch on Science Unit

Year 5: Material world

### Switch on Computing Unit

We are game developers

### Linked reading texts

*Cogheart* by Peter Bunzl

Classic Starts: *Oliver Twist*

*If...* by Rudyard Kipling

### Writing outcomes

#### Letter:

A letter from a workhouse child to a friend in another workhouse

#### Narrative: Story with historical setting

Own version of *Oliver Twist* in a Dickensian style

### Curriculum Coverage

**History** – Cause and Consequence, Historical Enquiry and Sources, significant individuals, events and achievements, Similarities, Differences and Connections, Historical Vocabulary

**DT** – Technical Knowledge: joining and structures

**PSHE** – Health and Wellbeing, relationships

**Art** – Developing ideas, Other techniques, evaluating and appreciating

**Computing** – Digital Artist

## Excite

Victorian School Day:

Pupils arrive at school to find things are quite different. Their classroom is organised into rows. The whiteboard has been covered and replaced by a chalkboard and the teacher is acting very strangely, even wearing a cap and gown. Conduct the school day in the style of a Victorian school day. You might even provide a Victorian-style school lunch.

## Explore

There are fourteen explore sessions:

Explore 1: What was the Victorian era like?

Explore 2: Queen Victoria

Explore 3: Industrial Revolution

Explore 4: Literature

Explore 5: Child labour

Explore 6: The Workhouse

Explore 7: Lord Shaftesbury and Dr Barnardo

Explore 8: The Great Exhibition

Explore 9: Victorian entertainment

Explore 10: Isambard Kingdom Brunel

Explore 11: The Railways

Explore 12: Seaside holidays

Explore 13: William Morris

Explore 14: Votes for Women

## Theme essential vocabulary:

Victorian, era, industry, reign, revolution, literature, factories, workhouses, poverty, exhibition, museum, entertainment, tension, suspension, railway, underground, holiday, bathing machine, motif, suffragists, suffragettes, protests

## Essential knowledge/concepts

1. Queen Victoria reigned from 1837–1901 .
2. The Industrial Revolution took place between 1760–1840.
3. Understand why workhouses were set up (as places for the poor to work) in 1835. Both adults and children worked in them.
4. There was a clear divide between the rich and the poor.
5. Dr Barnardo and Lord Shaftesbury worked tirelessly to support the poor and orphaned children of the Victorian era.
6. Isambard Kingdom Brunel was an engineering pioneer who influenced and supported the growth of the railways.
7. The railways impacted on the movement of trade and people around the UK – people and trade could now travel further both for work and leisure.
8. Seaside places such as Tenby and Scarborough grew because of the growth of the railways.
9. The Great Exhibition was held at Alexandra Palace and had the first ever flushing toilet.
10. William Morris was one of the main designers in the British Arts and Crafts movement and created fabrics and wallpaper inspired by nature.
11. Millicent Fawcett founded the NUWSS (National Union of Women’s Suffrage Societies) in 1897, and then Emmeline Pankhurst formed the more militant suffragettes in 1903.
12. Key literary figures of the Victorian era included Charles Dicken, Emily Bronte, Robert Louis Stevenson and Rudyard Kipling.

## Excel

The key assessment outcomes of this unit are:

Explore 2: Queen Victoria

Explore 3: Industrial Revolution

Explore 6: The Workhouse

Explore 10: Isambard Kingdom Brunel

## Exhibit

The Great Victorians Exhibition.

Pupils to put on their very own 'Great Exhibition' to share their learning about the Victorians throughout the theme. Invite other year groups and families to come and find out about one of the most important exhibition events in British history.

## Possible wider experiences:

Go and visit a museum that will give the pupils a feel for Victorian life e.g. Black Country Museum, Blist Hill Museum, Birmingham Back-to-back houses, Ironbridge Gorge.

## Flipped learning opportunities

1. Pupils to create a historical timeline of when the Victorian period was.
2. Research some of the famous writers during the Victorian times e.g. Charlotte Bronte, George Eliot, Thomas Hardy, Christina Rossetti
3. Explore some of the famous Victorian artists e.g. JMW Turner, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, William Powell Frith. Why not try out some of their styles!

## Family learning suggestion

Create a timeline of all the inventions that took place in the Victorian era (1837–1901). Use your knowledge from Trailblazers (Year 3) to help you start (Alexander Graham Bell – the telephone). Others you could include are the postage stamp, the radio, the chocolate Easter Egg and the Christmas card.

*Or*

Make a working model of a bathing machine in the Victorian style, using mechanisms for the wheels and consider the strength of the hut.

## Cultural awareness

### Key piece of music

'Nimrod' from Elgar's *Enigma Variations*  
<https://youtu.be/sUgoBb8m1eE>

### Key piece of art

*A Village Street* by Helen Allingham (A Victorian scene)  
<https://victorianweb.org/painting/allingham/wc/2.html>

### Key poem

*Jabberwocky* by Lewis Carroll  
<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/42916/jabberwocky>