

Timeline

Tudors (1465-1603)	Stuarts (1603 –1714)	Georgian (1714 –1837)	Victorian (1837—1901)	Edwardian (1901 –1910)
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The Victorian Era

The period of time between 1837 to 1901 when Queen Victoria reigned over Britain. During her 63 year reign, there was a huge contrast between how the rich and poor Victorians lived. Children led very different lives to children of nowadays. Queen Victoria led the expansion of the British empire and saw major changes to all aspects of Britain due to exciting discoveries and inventions.



Key Dates and Government Reforms

1838	Queen Victoria crowned age 18.
1840	Queen Victoria married Prince Albert.
1842	Mines Act: stopped women and children under 10 working in mines.
1844	Factory Act: stopped children between 8-12 from working more than 6.5 hours per day.
1847	Factory Act: limited women and children under 18 to a 58 hour working week.
1861	Prince Albert died of typhoid.
1864	Boys under 10 were banned from being chimney sweeps.
1874	Ten Hour Factory Act : people could not be made to work for more than 10 hours a day and children under 14 could not be employed full –time.
1878	Factory and Workshop Act banned the employment of children under 10.
1880	Education Act makes schooling compulsory for all children under 12 , but most had to pay.
1901	Queen Victoria dies and Edward VII becomes King.

What was life like for children in the Victorian Era?

Rich Home Life	Poor Home life	Children’s Jobs
Large houses Servants/Maids/Nanny/Tutor Expensive Clothes One hour a day with parents Flushing toilets and running water Nice food; sandwiches, meats, jams, sweets etc Expensive toys: rocking horse, doll’s house, cuddly toys Seaside holidays	Tiny Houses—1 or 2 rooms Sometimes shared with other families Slums—dirty houses packed together Very little food Worn out, dirty clothes Open sewers and shared toilets Water pumped from a well Invent own games Play with what you find	Farm Work Trade apprentice: butcher, baker, funeral parlour etc Chimney sweep Factory worker: cleaning machinery In the mines: as a trapper or drawer Street Children: Run errands, shoe shiners Sweep streets in front of the rich.

Workhouses

Huge buildings for very poor people to live and work in.	Whole families would move in together but men, women and children were all kept separate.	Jobs for men included working the field, breaking stones and chopping wood.	Jobs for women included laundry, sewing and scrubbing the floors.
Food was very basic including bread, porridge (gruel), watered down milk and occasionally meat and potatoes.	Children had to have 3 hours of reading, writing and arithmetic and Christian religion lessons.	Girls’ education was learning to sew , knit and how to be a servant.	In 1930, workhouses were closed for good. Some of the buildings were used as part of the National Health Service (NHS).



Who changed things for children?

<p>Lord Anthony Shaftesbury (born 1801) was a politician. He improved working conditions in factories and limited the working day. He was president of the Ragged School Union, which promoted the education of poor children. He believed that children were to be treated and educated well.. He believed that education was a way of freeing children from</p>	<p>Dr Thomas John Barnardo (born 1845) trained as a doctor and helped thousands of children in the East End of London. In 1867, he set up a Ragged School where children could get a free basic education. In 1870, he created a boys’ orphanage. By 1900, the Barkingside ‘garden village’ had 65 cottages, a school, a hospital and a church and provided a home and training to 1500 girls. His charity still exists today.</p>
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