

Victorian Britain

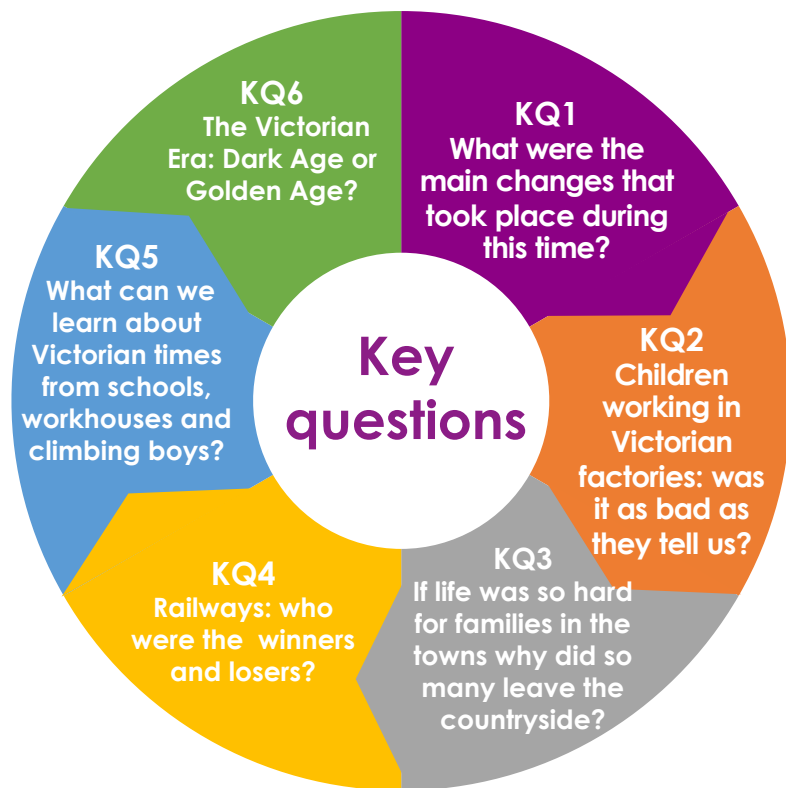
Why we are learning about Victorian Britain

You are learning about Victorian Britain because this was a really significant period of huge change in industry and technology, with amazing inventions that we still use today. But its was also a time of shocking divisions between rich and poor, when the population more than doubled and many people moved from the countryside to the towns in search of work in the new factories. It was during this period that Britain became the first global super-power producing much of the worlds coal iron and textiles. At home family life was very important and many of the wealthier Victorians became concerned about social problems and pushed through lots of reforms in health, policing and prisons and protected the poor child labour.

Laws passed to improve conditions for those, especially children working in mines and factories

People move from countryside to towns and cities

1819	1825	1834	1838	1851	1854	1863	1870	1876	1885	1901
Queen Victoria born	First public railway opened	Slavery abolished in British Empire	Queen Victoria crowned	Great Exhibition	Crimean war	London underground opened	Every child has to go to school 5-10	Telephone invented	First motor car	Queen Victoria dies
										



How the British Empire was seen at the time

Key vocabulary

British Empire	Territories controlled by Britain all over the world
Class	A group of people sharing a similar social rank; often described as upper, middle and working(lower) class.
Factory	Buildings where goods are manufactured or assembled chiefly by machine
Industrial Revolution	Fast and very important changes that took place in Britain and other countries in the 18th and 19th centuries as a result of improvements in industry
Mill	A building equipped with machinery for weaving and spinning into cloth
Poverty	Not having enough money for basic needs
Rural	To do with living in the country
Reigned	Someone who is a ruler
Sanitation	Keeping things clean at home to stop infection spreading
Slums	The squalid section of a city, full of overcrowded houses in poor conditions
Urban	Characteristic of a town or city
Wealth	Having a large amount of money
Workhouse	A place where poor people without families or jobs lived

Top takeaways

You will have learned that:

- 1 During Victoria's 64 year reign, there were massive changes in industry and technology with Britain becoming the world leader in the production of goods
- 2 Britain was incredibly inventive at that time with a wide range of new products which we take for granted today : railways, bicycles , motor cars, telephones etc
- 3 Britain grew extremely wealthy and expanded her empire across the world
- 4 During this time the population more than doubled and there was a major shift of population from countryside to the industrial towns and cities many of which grew up in the north.
- 5 There was a dark side to Victorian society and there was an enormous gap between rich and poor
- 6 Some rich Victorians worked hard to improve the life of the poor, the conditions for children working in factories, and mines and reformed prisons and public health.

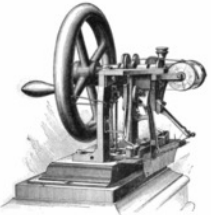
Victorian inventions



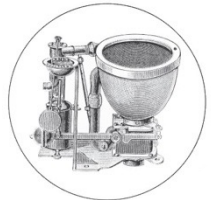
Photographic Cameras – 1838



Postage stamps - 1840



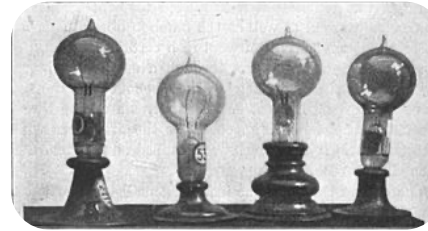
The Sewing Machine - 1845



The flushing toilet - 1851



The typewriter - 1873



The electric light bulb - 1879



The Telephone – 1876



The Bicycle – 1880s



The motor car – 1885



The radio -1895

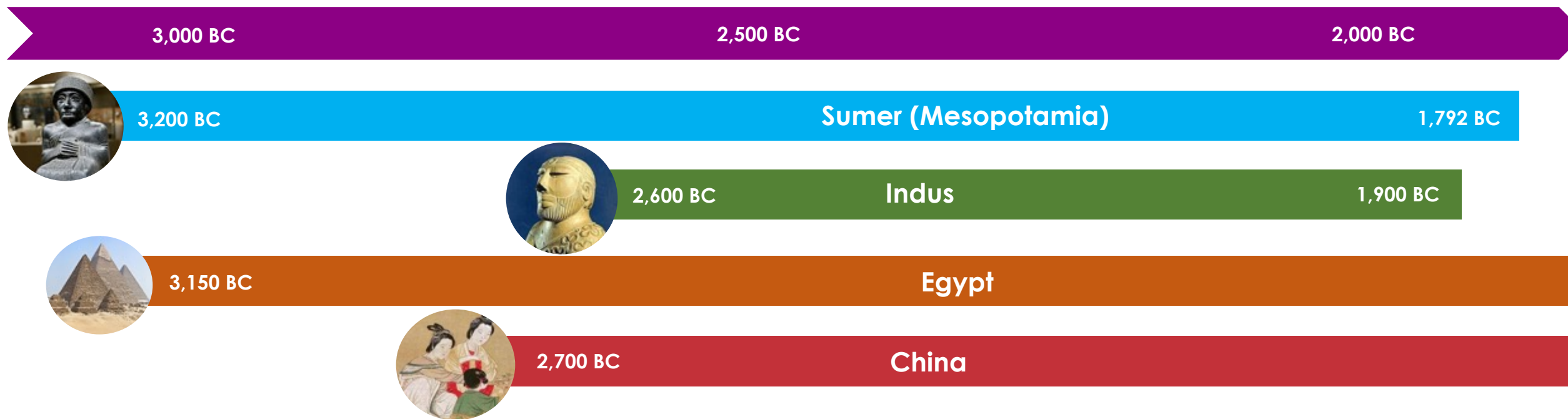
Ancient Egypt - timeline

Why this period is important

You are learning about ancient Egypt, because it is the best known and most popular of the early civilisations that grew up over 5,000 years ago. This was the time when people changed from being hunter gathers to living in large, organised settlements. In the case of Egypt the people were brought together under one king, the pharaoh, and were capable of building pyramids and temples which still stand today, close to the all-important river Nile.

We know so much about the daily lives of the ancient Egyptians - we can read their words, meet their families, feel their clothes, taste their food and drink, enter their tombs and even touch their bodies - that it seems that we almost know them. Ancient Egypt is definitely one of the earliest civilisations to have left written, pictorial and archaeological records of its culture, including medicine, mathematics, and astronomy that allows us to know so much of a civilisation that existed 5,000 years ago.

A comparative timeline of the first civilisations





Scribe	Person whose job it was to read, write and keep records
Rosetta Stone	A broken part of a bigger stone slab. It was an important clue that helped researchers read hieroglyphics
Sphinx	Sculpture with lion's body and head of the ruler built to guard the pharaoh in the afterlife
Tomb	Grave or building where body of dead person is laid
Vizier	Important men who worked for the pharaoh

Key vocabulary	
Ancient	The term to describe history before 500AD
Artefact	An object made by human beings
Ankh	Symbol of life which only gods and kings carried
Civilisation	Way of life of a group of people
Embalming	Preserving the dead body using chemicals salts and oils
Excavate	To dig in the ground to discover old buildings or objects that have been buried for a long time
Flax	Plant that can be made into cloth
Hieroglyphics	Symbols used by Ancient Egyptians in their writing
Mummification	A way of preserving a body after death
Natron salt	Absorbs water used to dry the body before it was wrapped in bandages
Papyrus	Paper made from the stems of the papyrus plant
Pharaoh	A ruler of Ancient Egypt who was very wealthy who the people thought came from the sun-god Ra
Pyramid	Stone structure that has a square base and sloping triangular sides that join at the top built to house dead bodies of their kings who were like gods living on earth
Sarcophagus	Massive stone, painted outer coffin in which mummy was stored

Top takeaways

1. That Ancient Egypt is just one of 5 major ancient civilisations which emerged about 5000 years ago, each being organised with cities and having their own form of communication- e.g. hieroglyphics or cuneiform.
2. Egypt was ruled by Pharaohs who were seen more like a god than just a person. Tutankhamun is the most famous whose tomb was only discovered 100 years ago Below the pharaoh there were other levels of society from viziers and scribes and priests down to slaves.
3. The Egyptians worshipped hundreds of gods, many represented by animals.
4. Much of daily life in Egypt was influenced by the Nile which flooded every year, essential for growing crops.
5. We know that the Egyptians thought that people who died went to a new world and we have lots of artefacts used in the mummification process.
6. Much of what we know for sure about Ancient Egypt comes from the Rosetta stone discovered only 200 years ago. There are still a lot of unanswered questions about this ancient civilization such as did slaves really build the pyramids?

Ancient Egypt and other civilisations

