



VICTORIAN QUIZ

Read the statements about the Victorian Era. Decide if they are true or false.

1. "The Victorian era" usually refers to the period of Queen Victoria's reign from 1837 until her death in 1901.
2. The Victorian era was the time of unprecedented prosperity for the British people as a result of profits from overseas colonies and industrial revolution at home.
3. In 1840 Queen Victoria married her cousin Albert, a German Prince. The royal couple had nine children and 40 grandchildren, including Wilhelm II, German Emperor as well as Alexei Nikolaevich, Tsarevich of Russia.
4. 1851 saw the Great Exhibition in London, the first World's Fair. It was the first time when the term "Victorian" had been used to describe and to show to the world the inventions of Victorian Britain.
5. The population of United Kingdom almost doubled under Queen Victoria.
6. The Irish famine began in 1845 and within 5 years reduced the population of Ireland by over 50%. Until today it remains the worst human disaster in British history.
7. The Victorian era was the time of great inventions in almost all walks of life, from steam ships, to railway, to photography, to advertising, to postal stamps and to tourism.
8. Victorian society had very high moral standards and an elaborate etiquette. For instance, it was rude to say "leg" (even when referring to a table leg) in the presence of a woman. Instead "limb" was used.
9. One of the first decisions of Queen Victoria was to outlaw slavery throughout the British Empire.
10. One of the most popular forms of public entertainment of the day was hypnotism and communication with the dead.



Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Empress of India. Source: Wikipedia

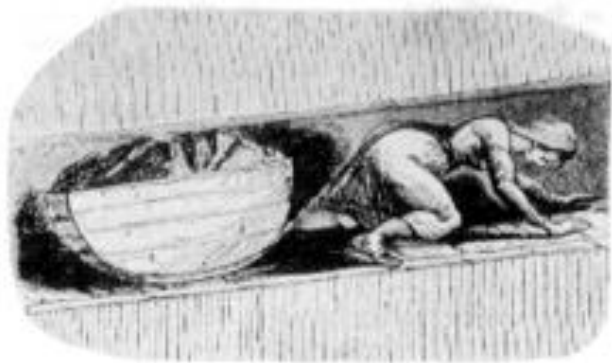


Penny Black, the world's first adhesive postage stamp. Source: Wikipedia.

WILD ABOUT OSCAR

Life is too important to be taken seriously!

11. One of the biggest social problems of the day, called "The Great Social Evil", was poverty and emigration.
12. In 1859 Charles Darwin published *On the Origin of Man*.
13. The Constitution Act of 1867 officially recognized the United States of America as an independent state.
14. In 1888 the serial killer known as Jack the Ripper murdered and mutilated over 50 prostitutes on the streets of London.
15. Under the Elementary Education Act of 1870, basic State Education became free for every child under the age of 10.
16. The Victorian era was notorious for the employment of young children in factories and mines and as chimney sweeps. Children as young as three were put to work for up to 16 hours a day.



Girl pulling a coal tub in mine. Source: Wikipedia

17. After her husband's death, Queen Victoria relied increasingly on John Brown, a servant from Scotland. Rumours of a romantic connection and even a secret marriage soon appeared in print. The Queen was sometimes referred to as "Mrs Brown".

18. The Great Fire of London of 1866 left over 80,000 people homeless. As it ravaged only the poorer districts of the city, riots broke out and continued in the streets of London for over a week.

19. On 23 September 1896 the British Empire celebrated Victoria's Golden Jubilee, the sixtieth anniversary of her accession to the throne, which was made a festival of the British Empire.

20. When she died in 1901, Queen Victoria had reigned for 63 years and 216 days, the longest in British history up to this point.



Queen Victoria photographed with Mr Brown in 1863 by G.W. Wilson. Girl pulling a coal tub in mine. Source: Wikipedia



Teacher's Notes and Answer Key

Depending on the level of your students you may need to pre-teach some vocabulary.

Ask your students to read the statements and decide if they are true or false. Check answers with the whole class.

Answers:

1. TRUE
2. TRUE
3. TRUE
4. TRUE
5. FALSE. Though, the population of England did almost double from 16.8 million in 1851 to 30.5 million in 1901. At the same time, around 15 million emigrants left the United Kingdom for the United States, Canada and Australia.
6. TRUE
7. TRUE
8. TRUE
9. FALSE. Slavery was abolished before Victoria's reign.
10. TRUE
11. FALSE. The term refers to prostitution, which indeed was one of the biggest social problems.
12. FALSE. The book was called *On the Origin of Species*.
13. FALSE. It created the Dominion of Canada.
14. FALSE. Jack the Ripper allegedly killed five, but possibly more.
15. TRUE
16. TRUE
17. TRUE
18. FALSE. The Great Fire of London took place in 1666.
19. FALSE. It was called Diamond Jubilee. Golden Jubilee was the fiftieth anniversary celebrated in 1887.
20. TRUE. Queen Elizabeth II will surpass this record if she remains on the throne through 9 September 2015.

Follow-up:

If you have more time, ask your students to write down some advantages/disadvantage of living in Victorian England for:

- working class (men and women who performed physical labor, paid daily or weekly wages),
- middle class (men performed mental or "clean" work, paid monthly or annually),
- upper class (did not work, income came from inherited land and investments).

You may divide the class into groups and stage a discussion.