

The Ancient Greeks



Quick summary



The Ancient Greeks were one of the most influential civilisations in history. Their legacy can be seen everywhere today, particularly in Western Europe. The English language has many words that come from Ancient Greek, and our political system was first seen in the Ancient Greek city of Athens. Ancient Greece was made up of separate city-states and conflict between them was frequent. The Peloponnesian War, for example, was between Athens and Sparta. At times these individual city-states came together to fight a common enemy, as they did when fighting the Persian army from the north. Although the Romans eventually conquered the Greeks, Greek culture and language spread far and wide. The army commander Alexander the Great and famous Roman thinkers were all influenced by this great civilisation.



Society

Ancient Greece was not one single nation, but a group of hundreds of city-states. Some cities were small, some much larger, like Athens and Sparta. Often at war with each other, they developed different forms of government. The Athenians invented democracy, a system that allows citizens to vote on important matters. However, women, children and slaves were not allowed to vote.



Culture and pastimes

The Greek city-states shared many traditions, stories and festivals. Famous myths and legends (like Theseus and the Minotaur) told stories about gods, heroes and how the universe was created. Scenes from these stories were often painted on beautiful pottery. The Ancient Greeks held athletic competitions near Mount Olympus. The Ancient Greeks' love of athletics inspires the modern Olympic Games. The city-state of Athens was famous for its great thinkers, art, architecture and philosophy. The ideas developed there have been very influential in many of today's societies.



Main events

776 BCE: First Olympic Games
480 BCE: Athenians defeated the Persian army at the Battle of Salamis
431–404 BCE: The Peloponnesian War (Athens defeated by Sparta)
146 BCE: Greeks defeated by the Romans at the Battle of Corinth



Artefacts

Large amounts of pottery, which have survived thousands of years, are significant historical sources from Ancient Greek times. We can use pottery to date archaeological sites and to ask questions about everyday Greek life.



Vocabulary

democracy: a system of government in which people choose who is in charge by voting in elections
citizens: people who belong to a place
philosophy: study of how people think and live
historical sources: things that give information about the past



Settlements



Beliefs



Culture and pastimes



Location



Main events



Food and farming



Travel and exploration



Conflict



Society



Artefacts

The Ancient Greeks – influence and impact



Quick summary



Ancient Greece was one of the earliest major civilisations of Europe, and its culture has had a significant impact on modern society. From art to architecture, systems of government and social organisation, to science and sports, the Ancient Greek way of life can be seen everywhere today. The Ancient Greek city-state of Athens was one of the first to use a democratic system of government. Ancient Greek art and sculpture continues to influence modern ideas of beauty and modern architecture is still heavily influenced by buildings that are over 2000 years old. When we consider the impact of Greek language, architecture, art and culture, it is possible to argue that Ancient Greece was the most influential ancient civilisation in history.



Culture and pastimes

Today's modern ideas of beauty can be traced back to Ancient Greek artworks. The Greeks famously recognised the golden ratio that is commonly seen in nature and applied it to their architecture and art. This precise, mathematical measurement had a major influence on the artists of the Roman Empire, who spread its idea of beauty across their empire. The Greeks admired physical perfection in their art but also in daily life; physical education and competitive sports were a significant part of their culture. The religious festival held every four years, called the Olympics, demonstrated their enthusiasm for physical fitness.



Settlements

The influence of Ancient Greek architecture and design can be seen everywhere in modern life, particularly in the Western world. Libraries, banks, museums and public buildings, sporting arenas, town squares and places of worship all share some of the characteristic features of Ancient Greek buildings. The best known feature, the Greek column (a large cylindrical post), comes in three styles, or orders; Doric, Ionic and Corinthian.



Society

In the sixth century BCE, an Athenian called Cleisthenes helped to introduce a new political structure of demokratia or 'rule by the people'. It was one of the earliest examples of democracy in history and is one of Ancient Greece's most lasting legacies. Nearly every nation in the world now includes some element of democracy in its government. Electing officials to represent us, voting on important decisions and helping to shape new laws are all ideas established almost 3000 years ago. We also have the Ancient Greeks, and people like Pythagoras, Archimedes and Hippocrates, to thank for some of the most significant discoveries in mathematics, science and medicine.



Vocabulary

civilisations: organised groups of humans with their own culture
democratic: based on the idea that everyone has equal rights and is involved in making decisions
characteristic features: particular qualities or aspects that make something recognisable



Settlements



Beliefs



Culture and pastimes



Location



Main events



Food and farming



Travel and exploration



Conflict



Society



Artefacts

The Ancient Greeks – myths and legends



Quick summary



The Greeks told some of the greatest, most influential and powerful stories, such as *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*, written by Homer. Although many of the myths and legends varied in detail across the different Greek city-states, they shared the same gods and goddesses, heroes and villains. These characters played a significant part in Greek culture and pastimes, and helped to shape Greek religious beliefs. These famous texts, still printed and read by thousands today, provided inspiration and guidance for the Ancient Greeks to explain their daily lives and understand the world around them.



Beliefs

The Ancient Greeks believed in three generations of gods. The first generation – the sky, the earth, the heavens, mountains and other physical things – came into existence from nothing. The second generation were called the Titans (also known as the elder gods) and were the children of Uranus (heaven) and Gaia (earth). There were twelve Titans in total, six female and six male. From these gods came the third generation, the Olympians, who took on the appearance of men and women. The Olympians, including Zeus and Poseidon, defeated the Titans and came to rule over the world. Numerous other deities also appear frequently in Greek mythology.



Culture and pastimes

The Ancient Greeks told many stories about their gods, demigods and heroes and used theatre to share their messages with as many people as possible. Each story told of the fantastic trials and challenges these gods or demigods had to face to show they were worthy of the title 'hero'. Greek myths and legends told people how to behave in everyday life, inspiring them to act in a particular way.



Artefacts

Greek myths and legends, portraying the adventures of gods and heroes, can be found on many of the artefacts from this time. Some of the objects show the red-figure and black-figure pottery techniques. The red-figure technique shows red figures (usually Greek gods or heroes) against a black background. Black-figure pottery is the opposite. Not only do these pieces of pottery tell us about famous gods and heroes, they also provide useful evidence of daily Greek life. Amphoras, for example, were used to store wine and grain, while lekythos were used to store ointments and oils.



Vocabulary

generation: people in a group of similar age
demigods: less important gods, usually half god, half human
techniques: particularly skilful methods for doing something
amphoras: two-handed narrow necked jars for oil or wine
lekythos: flasks with a narrow neck



Settlements



Beliefs



Culture and pastimes



Location



Main events



Food and farming



Travel and exploration



Conflict



Society



Artefacts

The Ancient Greeks – clues from the past



Quick summary



Ancient Greek buildings and artefacts provide lots of first-hand (primary) evidence to help us understand the past. Buildings like the Parthenon in Athens, for example, help historians understand the structure of society in Ancient Greece. Artefacts like pots, jewellery, carvings and sculpture give an insight into Greek daily life. Spectacular amphitheatres and world-famous literature provide evidence of the significant role of theatre and storytelling in Greek religion and education. The Iliad, by Homer, for example, tells of the Trojan War and the Siege of Troy. It informs us about the beliefs, culture and pastimes of the Ancient Greeks. By comparing stories with artefacts, we can build a detailed picture of what life was like for people almost 3000 years ago.



Settlements

The Parthenon, in Athens, is a temple to the goddess Athena and one of the most significant pieces of architecture from ancient times. Built on a hill called the Acropolis between 447 and 432 BCE, the Parthenon was a symbol of the power and wealth of Athens. It has influenced architects, designers and artists to this day. The temple was filled with sculptures, statues, carvings and friezes, which tell stories from Greek mythology and of life at that time.



Culture and pastimes

The amphitheatre was a central part of life for the Ancient Greeks. Plays were a vital part of religious festivals, and almost every Greek city had a theatre. Some of the most spectacular could hold nearly 15,000 people. Built on hillsides, these semi-circular open-air theatres were designed to give everyone in the audience a good view. The acoustics were also excellent, and are evidence of the superb engineering and building skills developed by the Ancient Greeks. The theatre of Dionysus (the Greek god of wine, fertility and entertainment) on the slope of the Acropolis in Athens, is the oldest theatre in Greece. The Epidaurus amphitheatre is the largest and most well-preserved.



Location



Artefacts

The famous Greek epics, 'The Iliad' and 'The Odyssey', have influenced writing, storytelling and literature for almost three thousand years. They are also a valuable source of evidence about Greek life, culture and religious beliefs.



Vocabulary

literature: written work, especially with artistic value
architects: people who design buildings
friezes: decoration high on a wall
acoustics: the features of a building that affect how sound is heard
engineering: using scientific knowledge to build



Settlements



Beliefs



Culture and pastimes



Location



Main events



Food and farming



Travel and exploration



Conflict



Society



Artefacts

The Maya



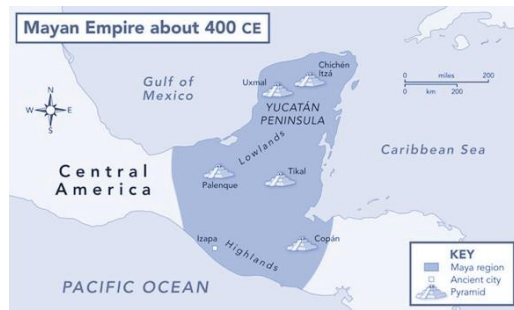
Quick summary



The Maya are native Americans of Central America, who built a great civilisation in the tropical rainforest that lasted for over 2000 years. The earliest Maya settlements were built in about 1800 BCE. The golden age of the Maya was between 250 and 900 CE. At its peak, the civilisation was made up of 40 great cities and almost 2 million people. The Maya people became expert mathematicians and were skilful astronomers and architects. Suddenly, in around 900, many of these significant Maya settlements were abandoned. No one is quite sure why, but it is possible that changes in the climate or overpopulation made the cities uninhabitable. The Maya still live in the same areas of Central America today, continuing many of their historical traditions.



Location



Settlements

By 200 CE the Maya had moved from their smaller villages into larger cities. Each city was designed with characteristic features including large temples, stone pyramids, palaces and ball courts. A large population of farmers growing corn, maize and squash surrounded Maya cities. The Maya created farmland by cutting away the trees and vines of the surrounding rainforest. The Maya people also used more advanced farming methods, such as irrigation and terracing, to help produce food.



Main events

c.250 BCE: First systems of Maya writing developed
600 CE: Caracol became the most important Maya city
c.900 CE: Cities like Tikal, Copán and Palenque abandoned



Beliefs

The Maya worshipped different nature gods, including gods of the Sun, the Moon, rain and corn. The rulers of Maya society were the kings, or holy lords, who claimed to be related to gods. They performed many rituals, including human sacrifice, to pay respect to their gods.



Vocabulary

abandoned: left for a long time
overpopulation: too many people
uninhabitable: cannot be lived in
traditions: customs that have existed for a long time
irrigation: supplying land with water
terracing: steps built into sloping land



Settlements



Beliefs



Culture and pastimes



Location



Main events



Food and farming



Travel and exploration



Conflict



Society



Artefacts

The Maya – builders and growers



Quick summary



The Maya lived in independent city-states, so did not consider themselves part of a larger kingdom or empire. The Maya were excellent architects and inventors and their magnificent cities, built in the rainforest, became important centres of society and culture. With some of the largest populations in the world at that time, the Maya had to use innovative systems of agriculture to feed themselves. Any surplus produce was traded and helped to support the expansion of their city-states. The Maya people's dependence on agriculture may be one reason why many of their cities were suddenly abandoned in the 900s.



Settlements

Each city-state was ruled by an Ajaw (king) and became a centre for trade, religious worship and entertainment. The population in Maya's largest settlements was about 60,000, making them some of the most populated places in the world at the time. While the average Maya lived in small stone or thatched homes, the palaces and temples in the cities were decorated with beautiful murals and sculptures. The Maya people built sewer systems and there was even running water in the wealthiest people's homes.



Food and farming

The Maya had to overcome the challenge of growing food in the rainforest to feed the growing populations of their urban centres. They used a slash-and-burn method of farming, which meant cutting down trees and plants to make room for their crops. The soil they farmed was not very fertile, so the Maya used ash for fertiliser and rotated their crops. Crop rotation allows the soil time to recover before replanting and helps increase yields. Another characteristic feature of Maya agriculture was terracing. Built to increase the amount of land that can be farmed, terracing involves levelling out hilly and mountainous areas by building walls.



Culture and pastimes

The beliefs and culture of the Maya continue to fascinate people today. The Maya were skilful mathematicians and astronomers and used their knowledge to build an accurate calendar system. This was significant because it told the Maya when to plant crops, when to harvest and even when to make a sacrifice to the gods. The Maya's mathematical and astronomy skills also influenced their architecture – temples and other public buildings were built so that sunlight would hit certain places at particular times of the year, often in time for a religious ceremony.



Vocabulary

architects: people who design buildings
agriculture: farming and keeping animals
expansion: process of becoming bigger
yields: amounts of crops produced
ceremony: a formal event at which special things are done



Settlements



Beliefs



Culture and pastimes



Location



Main events



Food and farming



Travel and exploration



Conflict



Society



Artefacts

The Maya – clues from the past



Quick summary



The Maya cities, buried deep in the Central American rainforest, provide us with some fascinating clues from the past. However, huge amounts of the Maya culture, writing and artwork has been lost. The reasons for the Maya civilisation's sudden collapse are also unclear. What archaeologists, anthropologists and historians can tell is that between 250 and 900 CE (the golden age of the Maya) the Maya began to live a much more urban life in dozens of large city-states. While Europeans were living through a period often called the Dark Ages, the Maya were making huge innovations in mathematics, engineering, astronomy and writing. Some of the most significant artefacts from Maya times are the Dresden, Madrid, Paris and Grolier codices – ancient Maya books, named after the places where they were rediscovered or are displayed.



Culture and pastimes

The Maya were the only major civilisation in the Americas to develop a writing system that was able to represent their spoken language in symbolic form. It had over 500 symbols or glyphs to represent words and ideas. Only the most educated would have been able to use this writing system, so scribes became important and respected people. The symbols have been found in stone carvings, temples and palaces but there is also evidence that the Maya used a form of paper made from tree bark to create folded 'books' called codices.



Artefacts

Many Maya artefacts and clues have been lost because of the regrowth of rainforest but also because of the deliberate destruction of writings and artworks by Spanish conquistadors and priests in the 16th century. The Spanish wanted to spread Christianity across the continent and looked upon Maya codices (books) with suspicion. Only four codices survived, but they give a fascinating glimpse into life in Maya times.



Main events

c.750 CE: Maya civilisation a major power in the region
c.900 CE: Several Maya cities were suddenly abandoned
c.1520 CE: Spanish conquistadors made contact with Maya settlements



Society

Only the most powerful and privileged were taught how to use the Maya writing system. Artefacts like Maya pottery have been found that show priests teaching scribes how to write. These primary sources are evidence of the importance that was placed on literacy in Maya society.



Vocabulary

anthropologists: people who study societies and cultures
innovations: new ways of doing something
codices: plural of codex (an ancient type of book written by hand)
conquistadors: Spanish conquerors



Settlements



Beliefs



Culture and pastimes



Location



Main events



Food and farming



Travel and exploration



Conflict

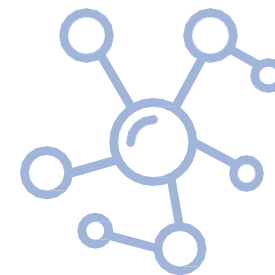


Society



Artefacts

The Tudors



Quick summary



The Tudors ruled England and Wales between 1485 and 1603. Henry Tudor claimed the throne after defeating Richard III in battle. This victory, at the Battle of Bosworth Field, ended the civil war known as the War of the Roses. Henry Tudor took the title Henry VII and was the first of five Tudor monarchs. Some of the most famous kings and queens in English history came from the Tudor family, and the period of their rule saw significant changes in daily life, politics and religious beliefs throughout Britain. It was also a time of global exploration and popular entertainment. Famous explorers returned with unusual gifts from the New World and writers, such as Shakespeare, were filling theatres with their famous plays.



Culture and pastimes

The Tudors developed new types of architecture. Medieval castles were replaced with large brick-and-stone-built manor houses. In larger towns, the buildings were half-timbered, with a wooden frame filled with stick and clay (wattle and daub). The half-timbered technique was used in the familiar black and white Tudor houses that survive to this day in many towns and cities.



Beliefs

A significant legacy of the Tudor dynasty was Henry VIII's decision to break with the Catholic Church in Rome. In 1534 the Pope had refused to allow Henry to remarry. Henry remarried anyway (to the second of his six wives) and named himself the head of the Protestant Church of England. This started the English Reformation, during which the enormous power of the Roman Catholic Church was challenged. The consequences of this were far reaching and divided Catholics and Protestants even further, in Britain and Europe.



Main events

1485: Battle of Bosworth Field; Henry Tudor became Henry VII
1534: Henry VIII made supreme head of the Church in England
1588: England defeated the Spanish Armada
1603: Elizabeth I died and James Stuart became king



Conflict

The War of the Roses was fought between the House of York and the House of Lancaster. Henry Tudor's victory over Richard III brought these wars to an end. Henry married Elizabeth, the heiress to the house of York, to secure an alliance.



Vocabulary

monarch: the king or queen of a country
medieval: something in European history between 476 CE and 1500 CE
legacy: something left behind after death
Reformation: changes to the Catholic Church that led to the setting up of the Protestant Church
alliance: groups working together



Settlements



Beliefs



Culture and pastimes



Location



Main events



Food and farming



Travel and exploration



Conflict



Society



Artefacts

Tudor monarchs



Quick summary



There were five Tudor monarchs (six if you count Lady Jane Grey who ruled for only nine days). Two of England's most famous monarchs were Tudors: Henry VIII, who married six times in his quest to have a male heir, and Elizabeth I who ruled for 45 years before dying without an heir. For more than a century, the Tudors faced significant challenges and threats to their rule, including rebellion, religious violence and the risk of invasion. By the end of their dynasty, England had separated from the Roman Catholic Church, beaten the Spanish Armada and started to explore the world. The Tudor dynasty helped lay the foundations for the exploration and colonisation that were to make England a powerful global force.



Society

As the first monarch of the Tudor dynasty, Henry VII tried to bring peace and control to England. He did so by changing the way government worked, giving himself more control over national affairs and events. Henry VII also took great interest in Greek and Roman culture and looked to these civilisations for inspiration. Although still very much in power, the Tudors, notably Henry VIII, recognised the need to involve Parliament in important decisions, thus helping to develop the system of government we understand today.



Conflict

Rebellion and war were never far away in the Tudor era. People would revolt over taxes, land ownership and religion. Most rebellions were short but some lasted years, particularly those taking place in Ireland during Queen Elizabeth I's reign. The Tudor monarchs also had to cope with the constant threat of invasion, particularly by Spain. This threat led to significant military developments. Henry VIII built a powerful navy, which included the famous Mary Rose and large artillery forts across the south coast of England.



Main events

1485-1509: Henry VII's reign
1509-1547: Henry VIII's reign
1534: Henry VIII formed the Church of England
1547-1553: Edward VI's reign
1553-1558: Mary I's reign
1558-1603: Elizabeth I's reign



Beliefs

Henry VIII's decision to break with the Catholic Church created significant upheaval in England's churches. Edward VI was a devout Protestant, Mary I, a devout Catholic. Elizabeth I was also Protestant but tried to be more moderate. She wanted people to stop the religious violence of Edward and Mary's reigns.



Vocabulary

heir: someone that will inherit a title or property
rebellion: violent action to change a country's political system
parliament: a group of people who make or change laws
military: armed forces of a country
devout: having deep religious beliefs



Settlements



Beliefs



Culture and pastimes



Location



Main events



Food and farming



Travel and exploration



Conflict



Society



Artefacts

Tudor entertainment & exploration



Quick summary



Tudor rule began at the end of a violent 30-year civil war that had a terrible impact on the lands and people of England. However, the dynasty ended with the Elizabethan era, a period in history so significant it is sometimes called England's Golden Age. New overseas trade routes and growth in agriculture brought peace and prosperity, allowing England to flourish. Explorers, like Sir Walter Raleigh, were able to sail the Atlantic to trade and begin the colonisation of the New World. England's Golden Age also saw significant changes in the types of entertainment people could enjoy. Theatre became a favourite and accessible pastime, heavily influenced by the Renaissance movement.



Culture and pastimes

England's Golden Age occurred at a time when people were moving into towns to find work. People also wanted to be entertained and had money to spend. A lot of money could be made by travelling theatre companies and the innkeepers who put on plays in their inn-yards. The Renaissance movement was a period of cultural and artistic development. It was influenced by classical art, literature and philosophy from Ancient Greece and Rome. The Renaissance took place across Europe and marked the end of the Middle Ages (sometimes called the Dark Ages).



Artefacts

The most famous theatre from Elizabethan times is the Globe Theatre that sits on the south bank of the River Thames in London. Still in use today, it was built in 1599 and destroyed by fire in 1613. It was rebuilt the following year. The Globe Theatre was home to many performances of Shakespeare's famous plays. The modern Globe Theatre was built in 1997; historical records and evidence were used to help recreate the original design.



Travel and exploration

Sir Walter Raleigh was one of the Elizabethan period's most famous explorers and adventurers. Raleigh was also a military leader who played a significant role in defeating the Spanish Armada. At one time a firm favourite of Queen Elizabeth, he led several naval expeditions from Europe to North America. Raleigh is also credited with bringing tobacco and potato crops to England. After Elizabeth's death, Raleigh was imprisoned by James I, before being allowed to search for the mythical treasures of El Dorado. His expedition ended in disaster and upon his return to England, Raleigh was executed.



Vocabulary

civil war: a war fought between people who live in the same country
prosperity: doing well financially
flourish: be successful
philosophy: study of how people think and live
expeditions: journeys of exploration



Settlements



Beliefs



Culture and pastimes



Location



Main events



Food and farming



Travel and exploration



Conflict

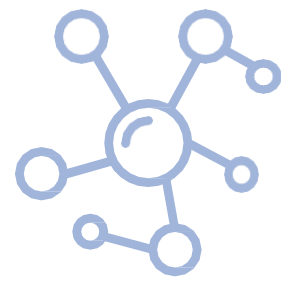


Society



Artefacts

The Victorian era



Quick summary



The Victorian era is the name given to the period of Queen Victoria's reign. It was a time of significant technological, scientific, economic and social change. New inventions and discoveries were made that changed where people lived, how they worked and how they spent their leisure time. The British Empire grew, and Britain came to rule over a quarter of the world's population. These changes brought immense wealth for many, but lots of people, including many children, still lived in terrible poverty. Many children worked in mines and factories. However, the Victorian era also saw lots more children attending school and significant progress in medicine and health care.



Culture and pastimes

People in the Victorian era wanted to learn more about the world around them. New learning in science was of particular interest and often challenged religious beliefs and ideas. Art galleries, libraries and museums were built in every large city. Some of Britain's most famous authors, such as Charles Dickens and the Brontë sisters, were writing during this time.



Society

The Industrial Revolution, which started in the late 1700s, saw significant growth in steam-powered machinery. The number of large factories making products to trade across the world also grew rapidly. Cities increased in size as people came to work in these factories, leaving the small villages they had lived in behind. The increase in population meant there was a need for more food, goods and housing. As a consequence, urban centres became overcrowded with factories and houses. Very young children had to work too, and it was only towards the end of the Victorian era that the law was changed to stop young children working in terrible conditions.



Main events

1837: Victoria became queen
1838: Slavery abolished in the British Empire
1845–9: Irish potato famine
1854: Britain went to war in Crimea
1859: Charles Darwin published 'On the Origin of Species'

1861: Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, died
1867: Antiseptic first used
1880: Education became compulsory until the age of ten
1897: Women's suffrage movement grew
1901: Victoria died



Vocabulary

empire: a number of nations controlled by one country
poverty: being extremely poor
revolution: important change
consequence: result or effect
law: a set of rules
conditions: how good or bad a place is



Settlements



Beliefs



Culture and pastimes



Location



Main events



Food and farming



Travel and exploration



Conflict



Society

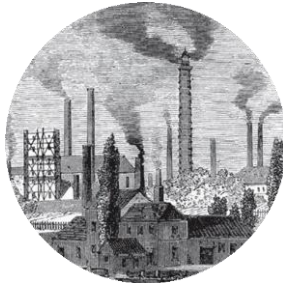


Artefacts

The Victorians – innovation and industry



Quick summary



The Victorian era was a time of significant change in technology and trade. The Industrial Revolution saw new inventions, like the steam engine, completely change the way people lived, and how they worked. Agriculture was no longer the primary source of work, and people flocked to growing urban areas and cities to find jobs. The shift from agriculture to industry was made possible by several significant innovations and the development of a skilled workforce. These skilled workers became part of the middle classes (people who were neither very wealthy nor very poor) who played an essential role in political and social developments of the time.



Society

The lives of the rich and the poor were very different in Victorian times. Wealthy landowners of earlier years became wealthy factory owners and continued to control political life and the economy. Newly educated experts like engineers and lawyers, teachers and doctors became part of the middle classes who went on to change the way that politics worked, wanting more representation in parliament. However, despite improvements in the lives of many people, the poor and very poor continued to live and work in terrible conditions.



Settlements

The enormous changes in industry seen in the Victorian era brought people from the rural parts of the country into urban centres like Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds and Bradford. Without access to education, this new working class had to work very long hours in difficult conditions. Children made up a large part of the workforce in factories, mills, mines and workshops. These new towns and cities also became overcrowded, and pollution created significant problems for people's health and wellbeing.



Main events

1837: Victoria became queen
1838: Photographs taken and exhibited by William Henry Fox-Talbot
1840: First postage stamp issued
1856: Henry Bessemer invented a way to convert iron into steel
1863: Underground trains ran in London for the first time

1876: Telephone invented by Alexander Graham Bell
1878: Electric street lighting used in London for the first time
1879: Electric light bulb invented
1887: Gramophone invented
1888: John Dunlop invented the pneumatic tyre



Vocabulary

innovations: new ways of doing something
workforce: people available to do a job
economy: the wealth a country gets from business and industry
representation: speaking on behalf of someone else
parliament: a group of people who make or change laws



Settlements



Beliefs



Culture and pastimes



Location



Main events



Food and farming



Travel and exploration



Conflict



Society



Artefacts

The Victorians – exploration and empire



Quick summary



The Victorian era was a period of exploration and discovery. Some explorers went in search of lost cities, to map uncharted territories and as missionaries, hoping to spread their faith and establish churches, schools and hospitals. Traders and settlers continued to look for new places to exchange goods, selling factory-made products and buying raw materials like cotton, sugar and tea. Many Europeans settled in these new places but some countries, like Britain, also sent armies and officials to govern these new territories. During Victoria's reign, Britain went from being a significant global power to the most powerful nation on Earth. Victoria ruled over an enormous empire that controlled almost one-quarter of the world's population, with trading centres and colonies across the globe.



Location



Travel and exploration

Not all Victorian exploration was about trade and conquest. Much of the world was still 'undiscovered' and a source of great mystery. One famous explorer, Mary Kingsley, travelled over much of West Africa, writing about her experiences and collecting scientific evidence of new animal species that she had discovered. Her achievements were even more influential because, as a woman living in Victorian Britain, she would not have been expected to travel in this way. Christian missionaries also travelled far and wide, seeking out people to adopt the Christian faith.



Main events

1600: East India Company, from Britain, built trading routes in India
1763: Canada given to the British by the French
1788: Britons settled in Australia
1806: Cape of Good Hope, in South Africa, joined the Empire

1840: New Zealand became part of the Empire
1841: Hong Kong became part of the Empire
1858: The start of the British Raj in India
1926: British Empire renamed the Commonwealth of Nations



Vocabulary

exploration: the process of exploring
uncharted: not yet mapped, unfamiliar
missionaries: people sent to a foreign country to teach about their religion
achievements: things done successfully after lots of effort
Raj: British rule in India



Settlements



Beliefs



Culture and pastimes



Location



Main events



Food and farming



Travel and exploration



Conflict



Society



Artefacts