

KEY

Read the text and answer the questions:

9 FACTS ABOUT THE VICTORIANS!

Head back in time to when Britain became the most powerful empire in world history...

1) The Victorians were the people who lived during the reign of Queen Victoria, from the 20 June 1837 until the date of her death on the 22 January 1901. It is remembered as a time of exciting discoveries, inventions and exploration **following** the Industrial Revolution.

2) During the Victorian era, Britain **expanded** its territory throughout the world and became the largest, richest and most powerful empire in world history! A quarter of the world's population lived in the empire. Queen Victoria was even crowned Empress of India! Today, we look back at empire differently to how it was viewed at the time. Native people were often treated unfairly by the invading British and **tensions ran high**. Over time, the empire broke down and gradually, countries gained independence.

3) New inventions, like the telephone, motorcar, typewriter, bicycle and moving film totally changed the way that people lived, worked and travelled. In 1856, an engineer named Henry Bessemer invented a new method for turning iron into steel making it possible to build ships, bridges and other structures on a scale like never before!

4) Expansion of the railways meant that people could travel **faster** and further than ever before. All of Britain's major cities, like London, Glasgow and Manchester, were now connected. Before trains, the fastest mode of transport was horses. All aboard!

5) Victorian children were expected to work long hours and for less money than adults. Seems unfair, right?! **To make matters worse**, the jobs were often **dangerous** and conditions were hard. Children were favoured because they could fit into tight spaces that adults couldn't. Therefore, many children worked in factories, coal mines and as chimney sweeps.

6) Improvements in education meant that more people could enjoy reading. Children's books were no longer just for learning, they were fun! New titles such as *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *Treasure Island* and *The Jungle Book* became hugely popular. Victorian children loved an adventure story!

7) This period was a great time for the arts, too! Some of Britain's best-known poets, thinkers and authors flourished in the Victorian era, like poet Elizabeth Browning, playwright Oscar Wilde and authors Emily Brontë and Charles Dickens. Dickens' novels – such as *Oliver Twist* – often focused on poor people, and his stories helped **to highlight their plight**.

8) Organised sport became popular in the Victorian era. In 1871, the first Rugby Football Union was set up. It is believed that the sport was invented when William Webb Ellis, a **pupil** at Rugby School in England, picked up the ball during a game of football and ran with it!

9) Healthcare saw huge improvements under the Victorians. Medical pioneers like Florence Nightingale worked with the government to improve hospital cleanliness — which hadn't been considered as important before!

Source:

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/history/general-history/victorian-facts/>

WRITING: STUDENTS' OWN ANSWERS

COMPRESIÓN Y PRODUCCIÓN ESCRITA
COMPETENCIAS CLAVE: CL, CD, AA, SC, SIEE, CEC
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Reading comprehension:

- 1) Find synonyms in the text for the following words and phrases:
 - a. return- **head back**
 - b. just after- **following**
 - c. increased- **expanded**
 - d. the situation was very tense- **tensions ran high**
 - e. quicker- **faster**
 - f. to worsen things- **to make matters worse**
 - g. perilous- **dangerous**
 - h. to draw attention to their problems- **to highlight their plight**
 - i. student- **pupil**

- 2) What percentage of the world's population lived in the British Empire in Victorian times?

Twenty-five percent of the world's population lived in the British Empire in Victorian times.

- 3) According to the article, how did Henry Bessemer's invention benefit Victorian society?

It benefitted society because it made it possible to make ships, bridges and other structures more efficiently/ on a larger scale/ on a scale like never before.

- 4) What was the quickest method of transport before trains?

Horses were the quickest method of transport before trains.

- 5) Why were children preferred over adults for certain jobs?

They were preferred because they could fit into small spaces.

- 6) How was rugby believed to have been invented?

It is believed to have been invented when William Webb Ellis, who was a pupil at Rugby School, picked up the ball when playing football and ran with it.