



WESTON
MUSEUM



VICTORIANS

The time when Queen Victoria reigned is called the Victorian era or the Victorian age.

Throughout this booklet, we will be exploring a few of the key events that occurred during the Victorian era.

During her reign, Britain was going through the Industrial Revolution. This is when scientific inventions meant that it was easier to make things to sell, and that those things could be sent to places further away than before.

There were lots of inventions during the Victorian era, and a lot of these inventions are still used today.

THE CROWNING OF QUEEN VICTORIA

The coronation of Queen Victoria took place on Thursday 28 June 1838, just over a year after she succeeded to the throne of the United Kingdom at the age of 18.



Where was the coronation ceremony held?

THE INVENTION OF THE STAMP

The first issued postage stamp began with Great Britain's Penny Post.

When was the first stamp released?



The Penny Black engraved the profile of Queen Victoria's head, who remained on all British stamps for 60 years.



Who invented the adhesive postage stamp? When was it invented?

THE INVENTION OF THE STAMP

The inventor of stamps also created the first uniform postage rates that were based on weight rather than size.

The invention of these stamps made the prepayment of mail postage possible and practical.

The ideas for postage stamps and charging paid-postage based upon weight soon came into fruition and were adopted in many countries throughout the world.

THE V&A MUSEUM OPENING

The Victoria and Albert Museum was founded with a mission: to educate designers, manufacturers and the public in art and design. Its origins lie in the Great Exhibition of 1851 - the world's first international display of design and manufacturing



How many people attended the exhibition?

At the end of a highly successful exhibition, a selection of objects was purchased - using a Treasury grant of £5,000 - to form the core of a new Museum of Manufactures. This was to be the first incarnation of the V&A.

THE V&A MUSEUM OPENING

When did the V&A Museum first
open?



By 1854, the Museum of Manufactures was already outgrowing its home at Marlborough House, which would soon need to be vacated to provide a residence for the Prince of Wales.

It was in the neighbourhood of Brompton, which was soon given the most aristocratic sounding name of South Kensington.



When did the V&A Museum first
open?

POST BOXES FIRST USED

Royal Mail post boxes are a cherished feature of the British street furniture scene.

How many post boxes are there across the UK?



In England, a small number of post boxes are listed buildings. Many post boxes are now regarded as 'undesigned heritage assets' and some of the oldest and rarest have been given 'designated heritage assets' status by listing.

Due to the invention of stamps, the pre-payment of postage was made easier. However, letters usually had to be taken to the nearest letter receiving office - which could be miles away.

POST BOXES FIRST USED

A Post Office official - named Anthony Trollope - was set to Jersey to make recommendations for an easier method for stamped letters to be deposited.

He adopted a system of placing locked cast-iron pillar boxes at the roadside and the provision of regular collection times.



When did his scheme begin in the Channel Islands and when was it extended to mainland?

What colour were post boxes originally - before they became red?



SCIENCE MUSEUM OPENING

The museum included a collection of machinery which became the Museum of Patents in 1858, and the Patent Office Museum in 1862. This collection contained many of the most famous exhibits of what is now the Science Museum.

In 1883, the contents of the Patent Office Museum were transferred to the South Kensington Museum.



When was the museum founded?

In 1885, the Science Collections were renamed. What was the new name?



LONDON UNDERGROUND



What was the name of the world's first underground railway?

The underground railway first opened in 1863, using gas-lit wooden carriages hauled by steam locomotives. London's Circle Line was completed in 1884, created by the District Railway and the underground railway.

Both of these railways expanded, extending as far as Verney Junction in Buckinghamshire, more than 50 miles from Baker Street and the centre of London.

When did the first-deep level tube line open? What type of trains were used?



PENNY FARTHING INVENTION

It is now generally accepted that the penny farthing had its origins in France in the 1860s, although British inventor James Starley has been described as the 'father of the cycle industry', having been involved in its continued development.



What was the name of the British cyclist who rode the first penny farthing in England?

English inventor Starley was responsible for making the design popular in Britain.

Starley went on to create his own model of penny farthing. What was it called?



THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

On 23 September 1896, the Queen surpassed King George III as Britain's longest-reigning monarch, but she requested that celebrations of the milestone be delayed until June 1897 - the 60th anniversary of her accession to the throne.

There had never been a Diamond Jubilee before, so this was the first time the term Diamond Jubilee had been used in the context of a 60th anniversary. Queen Victoria herself did not care for the idea, she thought it was not appropriate and had to be talked into it.



What was the date of her Jubilee Day?

THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

The spirit of Victorian philanthropy was kept alive and well with street feasts.

How many street feasts were laid on for London's poorest residents?



How late did the pubs stay open?

THE DEATH OF QUEEN VICTORIA

When Queen Victoria died at the age of 81 on 22 January 1901, it took her family, court and subject by surprise. Very few had been able to contemplate the mortality of the monarch who had ruled over Britain and its empire for almost 64 years.

Her death marked the end of the Victoria era. News of her death broke on Tuesday 22 January 1901, shortly after 6:45pm. By 8:00pm, shop windows were dressed in black for mourning, and people gathered in small groups to sing 'God Save the Queen'.

She had the largest military procession since the Duke of Wellington's funeral in 1852, through Hyde Park to Paddington. The procession lasted two hours, with the Queen's coffin standing high on the gun carriage drawn by eight white and cream ponies through the crowded - yet eerily silent - streets.

On 4 February 1901, the Queen was laid to rest beside her beloved Prince Albert.

ANSWERS

CROWNING OF QUEEN VICTORIA



Where was the coronation ceremony held?

The ceremony was held in Westminster Abbey after a public procession through the streets from Buckingham Palace, to which the Queen returned later as part of a second procession.

STAMP INVENTION

When was the first stamp released?



6 May 1840

STAMP INVENTION



Who invented the adhesive postage stamp? When was it invented?

Sir Rowland Hill invented the adhesive postage stamp in 1837, an act for which he was knighted.

V&A MUSEUM OPENING

How many people attended the exhibition?



6 million (equivalent of one-third of the British population).



When did the V&A Museum first open?

1852

V&A MUSEUM OPENING

What was the less formal nickname of this museum site?



Albertopolis

POST BOXES FIRST USED



How many post boxes are there across the UK?

115,500 (85,000 in England)

When did his scheme begin in the Channel Islands and when was it extended to the mainland?



His scheme began in the Channel Islands in 1852, and was extended to the mainland in 1853.

POST BOXES FIRST USED



What colour were post boxes originally - before they became red?

Green

SCIENCE MUSEUM OPENING

When was the museum founded?



1857



In 1885, the Science Collections were renamed. What was the new name?

The Science Museum

LONDON UNDERGROUND

What was the name of the world's first underground railway?



The Metropolitan Railway



When did the first deep-level tube line open? What type of trains were used?

The first deep-level tube line - the City and South London Railway - opened in 1890 with electric trains.

THE PENNY FARTHING

What was the name of the British cyclist who rode the first penny farthing in England?



James Moore rode the high-wheeled penny farthing in August 1870 at the Midland Counties Championship in Wolverhampton.

THE PENNY FARTHING



Starley went on to create his own model of penny farthing. What was it called?

Ariel

THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

What was the date of her Jubilee Day?



Tuesday 22 June 1897



How many street feasts were laid on for London's poorest residents?

400,000

THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

How late did the pubs stay open?



02:30