



Year 5 History: Victorian Birkenhead

What I should already know:

- Some understanding of British and local history.
- Key events in British history.
- Be able to make connections and contrasts between historic and modern events.

At the end of this topic, I will know:

- I will have a more adept understanding of the history of Britain and Birkenhead.
- I will know about key events in British history including significant inventions.
- I will be able to make connections between history and modern day, using appropriate terms when providing narratives.
- I will have investigated and questioned why certain changes occurred, how different they are and why/how they are significant.
- Locate my way around the landmarks in Birkenhead Park that were built in the Victorian times.

Key Facts:

- Queen Victoria was is reign from 1819 to 1901.
- She reigned through the growth of Britain and during the industrial revolution.
- The Victorian period was a time of huge change, the population of Britain doubled in size and busy cities began to grow and thrive.
- Many new inventions come about, including railways and factory machines.
- Many people ended up living in poverty due to the increase in population, and demand for housing and food becoming greater.
- During this period Britain was going through the Industrial Revolution.
- There were three social classes – lower, middle and upper.
- Schooling was strict and they focused on the three R's.
- Birkenhead park was the first public park for all to enjoy.
- Cammell lairds was built and was one of the best trading places of the Victorian Era.

Victorian Birkenhead:

- John Laird was a major figure in Birkenhead (becoming the first mayor) and was involved in the draining of the marshland for development purposes. His statue stands in Hamilton square, one of the finer 19th century developments in Britain.
- Birkenhead Park was laid out over the period 1843-47 under architect Joseph Paxton. It contains two artificial lakes, cricket and football pitches and driveways. Paxton went on to help design Britain's Houses of Parliament. William Hesketh (later Lord) Lever established his business here in 1860, making soaps and detergents. The industry took advantage of north-west coal and electricity to make soda from the nearby Cheshire salt reserves. Imports of vegetable fats through the Mersey ports provided the other ingredients.
- The Mersey Railway tunnel opened in 1886, providing direct railway access to Liverpool.

Key Vocabulary

Urban	Town environment.
Slum	This is a poor housing area.
Orphan	Child with no parents.
Workhouse	Home for the poor.
Cane	Stick used for punishment.
Factory	Building with machines.
Governess	Home teacher.
Nanny	Raises rich children
Industrial Revolution	A period of major changes in the way products are made.

Government legislation:

1842 – Mines Act stopped women and children under 10 working in mines
 1844 – Factory Act stopped children between 8-12 from working more than 6½ hours a day
 1847 – Factory Act limited women and children under 18 to a 58-hour working week
 1864 – Boys under 10 were banned from being chimney sweeps
 1874 – Ten Hour Factory Act meant that people could not be made to work for more than 10 hours a day and children under 14 could not be employed fulltime
 1878 – Factory and Workshop Act banned the employment of children under 10
 1880 – Education Act made it compulsory for children up to 12 to go to school, but most children had to pay
 1891 – Education is free and compulsory for all 5-13 year olds

