

Queen Victoria was born on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1819 in Kensington Palace.

Her full name was Alexandrina Victoria.

Queen Victoria had an unhappy childhood. Her dad died when she was 8 months old and her mum was very strict.

When she was young, her family called her 'Drina' but she preferred to be called Victoria.

Victoria became the Queen of England on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1837 at the age of 18.

Queen Victoria married Prince Albert in February 1840.

Queen Victoria spoke English and German fluently. She also learnt some French, Italian, Latin and Hindustani!

Queen Victoria and Prince Albert had nine children altogether! They had five girls and four boys.

Queen Victoria and Prince Albert had 40 grandchildren and 37 great-grandchildren!

Albert died in 1861 at the age of 42. Victoria was devastated and wore black for the rest of her life.

Victoria was Queen for 63 years. Until recently, she was the longest ruling English monarch. Queen Elizabeth II now has this title.

When Queen Victoria was in power, Britain was the most powerful and richest country in the world. Britain ruled a quarter of the world!

Queen Victoria was the first monarch to live in Buckingham Palace.

Queen Victoria was almost killed at least six times during her reign!

Queen Victoria was known as the 'Grandmother of Europe' because lots of her children and grandchildren married into European royal families.

In the Victorian times, there was no electricity. Candles and gas lamps had to be used for light.

Queen Victoria's reign is known as the Victorian era or Victorian times.

When Victoria was Queen, more factories and machines started to be built to meet the high demand for food and clothes.

The number of people living in Britain in the Victorian times more than doubled. The population rose from 16 million to 37 million!

After Prince Albert died, Queen Victoria did not go out in public very much anymore. She was given the nickname "widow of Windsor".

The police force was introduced in the Victorian times.

Victoria's father, Edward Duke of Kent, was English and her mother, Princess Maria Louisa Victoria of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld, was German.

Queen Victoria is believed to have written, on average, 2500 words a day! She kept very detailed diaries of her life.

Queen Victoria was known as a strong and powerful woman but she didn't look it! She was only five feet tall.

Queen Victoria asked Prince Albert to marry her. He couldn't ask her himself because she was Queen!

Prince Albert introduced Christmas trees to Britain! They are a German tradition.

Queen Victoria introduced passenger railways and for the first time, British people were able to travel around the country easily.

Queen Victoria's coronation was on 28<sup>th</sup> June 1838. Everyone cheered, "Long live the Queen!"

There are lots of famous places named after Queen Victoria, such as Queensland which is a state in Australia, Victoria Falls which is a waterfall in Zambia and Zimbabwe and Victoria Square in Athens, Greece.

Victoria was Queen of the biggest empire in history. The British Empire included Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand and South Africa.

Queen Victoria became the Empress of India on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1876.

Queen Victoria died on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1901 at the age of 81.

After Queen Victoria died, her eldest son became King Edward VII.

Queen Victoria was buried next to Albert at Frogmore Mausoleum.

## Teaching notes

The Queen Victoria fact cards can be cut out and used for a variety of activities.

The following activities can be carried out using the cards:

- Queen Victoria fact hunt – Hide the cards around the classroom for the children to discover. Ask the children to share their cards with a small group, then feedback their learning to the class.
- Lucky dip/feely bag facts – In small groups, sit with the children in a circle and pass a feely bag containing the cards around for each child to select a fact and read it to the group.
- Favourite facts – Ask the children to choose their top 5 facts and present these to the class, e.g. through posters, presentations, role play etc.
- Picture match – Ask the children to select fact cards and draw pictures to match them. These could then be put up on display.
- Memory challenge – Share a selection of the facts with the children, give them a couple of minutes to review them then hide them out of sight. Ask the children to collectively recall as many facts as possible. You could also hide one of the fact cards and ask the children to identify which has gone missing.
- Guided and shared reading – Link your reading sessions to your History topic, and challenge the children to develop their comprehension and inference skills by asking questions about what they have read.
- Queen quiz – After a selection of the facts have been shared, split the class into teams and host a quiz.
- Shuffle and sort – All cards with dates could be used for a sorting activity and put into a timeline of Queen Victoria's life.
- Writing prompts – Leave a selection of cards on each table as reminders for the children during writing activities.
- Build a biography – Ask the children to use some of the facts to put together a biography about Queen Victoria's life.
- Displays – Pin the facts up on your working wall through your topic to gradually introduce new information.

The possibilities are endless!