

QUEEN VICTORIA

1. how long was her reign?

it was sixty-four years long, from 1837 to 1901.

2. what are the main contributions of the Victorian era to the shaping of modern Great Britain?

The Queen reigned constitutionally, never overruling the Parliament.

3. what positive role did the Queen play?

- She was a mediator between different political parties,
- she made social and political reforms for the middle classes
- she expanded the British Empire to Africa, Oceania, Central America and Asia.

4. Explain why the Great Exhibition was an important event.

It symbolised English industrial and economical leading position in the world; in fact goods coming from different countries of the world were exhibited in it.

5. Say what the most important political parties were.

They were the Liberals (Whigs) and the Conservatives (Tories).

6. Identify the main features concerning urban life.

Urban life was characterized by: the slums, areas in which the poor lived in conditions of insanity, squalor, crime and disease; a high death rate; terrible working conditions.

7. Summarise the main reforms enacted to improve the life of many Victorians (refer also to the timeline)

The main reforms were:

- the abolition (repeal) of the "Corn Laws", which froze the price of corn at high levels to protect the landed interests (in 1846);
- the Homestead Act (1862), that granted free soil in the USA to the first occupants;
- the Mines Act (1862), that prohibited the working of children and women in mines;
- the Public Health Act (1875) to improve public health in the cities,
- and the Third Reform Act (1884), that granted the right to vote to all male members of the working classes.

8. Try to explain why the British empire was called "the Empire where the sun never sets".

Because England controlled many lands in each continent, so there was always an English territory in which the sun shined.

9 list the main principles and purposes of British Imperialism.

The imperialistic policy faced several wars both to protect British interests and to conquer new territories.

10. Fill in the table below to explain the differences between the north and the south in America in the 19th century.

NORTH	SOUTH
-industrialized	-agricultural
-many white immigrants	-3,500,000 blacks
-against slavery	- slavery

-republican party (Lincoln)

after the war:

-great financial empire
(profited from
war industries
blacks' immigration

-economy collapsed
as a war site
blacks' emigration

11. Point out the causes and consequences of the American Civil War.

Even if The North wanted to abolish slavery and to improve the conditions of blacks in the South officially, as a matter of fact they tried to have political supremacy on whole America.

The consequences were both the abolition of slavery and the supremacy of the North.

12. What does the term "American Renaissance" mean?

It means the beginning of a truly American literature, with its own themes and style.

13. What were the key-ideas of transcendentalism?

They were:

- reality seen as a single unity, symbol of the American melting pot;
- the contact with nature seen as the only means to reach truth and awareness of the unity of all things;
- the over-soul, that is the spiritual principle linking everything together, and the man seen as the emanation of the over-soul.