

## Chapter 1 : Victorian England Social society blog.quintoapp.com

*Shopping in Victorian England reached a level of importance not wholly appreciated even by Victorians themselves. New types of shops appeared, offering an expanding array of goods inventively packaged and displayed for an expanding group of shoppers.*

The Victorian Era can be seen as a long period of peace, progression and prosperity. As the population of England rose rapidly, there was an increase of demand for food meaning more shops were needed. As it was hard to keep food fresh, shopping quickly became part of the daily routine. Large supermarkets did not exist at the time, resulting in people purchasing goods from many different shops. Shopping during the Victorian era was extremely different to now. Where we walk into a store and pick up what we want, the Victorians had to wait to be served by either the shop keeper or shop assistants depending on the size of the store. The shopkeeper or family members would serve customers in a small store whereas shop assistants were needed in bigger stores. Most of the goods were kept away from customers. They were behind the counters in boxes, on shelves, drawers and storerooms. This was to prevent thieves and shop lifters since the amount of crime committed in the Victorian era was nowhere near low. The shops would usually be open really early in the morning and close late at night. Made up of original shop-fronts, the Victorian Walk really captured the image of Victorian shops. As you can see there are a number of shops you can observe and explore. The details in each are amazing and really bring the shops alive. As you can see from the images, most of the stock was behind the counters and in cupboards. Customers would have to queue up and wait to be served individually. Their items would be brought to them personally by shop assistants. Certain goods would also be weighed on the spot. I think you can imagine how long it would take to buy something if the store was packed. This is why it was mainly the middle and upper classes who purchased foods from these stores. They simply did not have the time to stand around and wait for assistance. Normally, they would buy their food from markets and street stalls as it was much quicker and cheaper. This is an example of where the lower working class would purchase bread. Although window displays were extremely uncommon in food stores, other businesses used these displays to their advantage. Through the window of the Toy Store here you can see the different varieties of toys being sold. Just imagine how entertained the young Victorian children would have been just looking at them! The counters, furniture and flooring in most of the shops in the walk were made of wood which suggests that it was very hard to keep the shops clean back then. As there was an increase in shops and self-servicing was almost unknown, shop assistants were vital. You would think that since they were so needed they would be appreciated and treated nicely right? According to Christopher P. Shops, Shop Assistants, and Shop Life in Late-Victorian and Edwardian Britain , he states that "shop assistants were indeed "absolutely powerless and helpless. It is clear to see that the Victorian Era was one of the most successful eras in English history. The rise in trade meant an increase in shops resulting to more job opportunities. It is interesting to see how the simple job of being a shop assistant could be so depressing and how working rights and conditions have changed so much over the past two centuries. Wordsworth Editions Limited, Journal of British Studies , Vol. Daily Life in Victorian England. Greenwood Publishing Group,

**Chapter 2 : 10 of the Worst Jobs in the Victorian Era | Mental Floss**

*Shops and Shopping in Victorian England* As the population of London grew during the nineteenth century, the means of production and distribution would need to change to meet the needs of the increasing masses. Prior to this period goods and products for t.

So I slept with my glasses on every night, just in case. Realistically speaking, then, what would happen if you or I were transported back in time to Victorian-era England? Do we have the skills necessary to survive and thrive? Could we use our knowledge of the future to make a life for ourselves, or even change the course of history itself? You have no friends or relatives, and no one to rely on. The streets are full of people busily going about their business, but none of them pay a bit of attention to you. The first thing you notice is the smell. Chamber pots the equivalent of toilets were routinely emptied outdoors into the street or a nearby alley, not to mention that it was common practice for men to urinate outside against a wall, or in an alley. This is the byproduct of the coal-burning factories located in town. Do you have any solid gold, or sterling silver? Maybe, maybe not, but if you do have some and want to sell it to get some starting capital, prepare for three eventualities: You have no idea what the exchange rate of precious metals in the Victorian era is. Pickpockets were absolutely rampant at that time, so watch your pockets. Being accused of theft. If you are A nonwhite or B non-male, prepare to be hassled. Even a white male, depending on their clothing, may have a hard time. Still, given that you would almost certainly have a foreign accent, they may just write it off as you being a foreigner. In fact, being nonwhite is just really going to screw you. Then they make you work to pay off your debts, which sounds fine in theory. It was so bad that they were eventually abolished in Trying to sell your cell phone is probably a bad idea. Better to err on the safe side, and just keep it to yourself for the time being. Same with a digital watch. If you happen to have a really nice modern, self-winding analog watch, that might fetch a pretty penny. Finding a place to live should be a priority. This is a task that will be vastly easier or more difficult depending on how you look, so I recommend buying some period clothing before doing anything else. This was a time of record diversity in London, so people were pretty used to foreigners. The best way to handle that is to be extremely polite, and always err on the side of being deferential. Your best friend for finding a place to live is one of the myriad newspapers of the time. There are a whole slew of them, so you may want to ask a street vendor which one would have the best advertisements for places to live. Frankly, once you look the part, it should be pretty easy to find an apartment, especially if you have the money up front. Now for a note on the food. What will be very important is the bacteria in their food. In fact, many of our modern bugs are so strong compared to the ones in Victorian times that a Victorian-era person would be in much more likely to die from coming forward in time than you are going back. It may take a few weeks for your system to fully acclimate, and it is entirely possible that you will feel like you want to die in the interim. Stick with it, though, and your system will adapt well enough. Can you successfully take advantage of your knowledge of the future to accomplish something in the past? Statistically speaking, probably not. So you come along with your passable knowledge of mechanics and electronics, but without knowing the math behind them. What do you tell someone you want to invest in you? Let me get back to you on that. Can you tell them how to make a computer from the ground up, and justify why it would be worth it? We take computers for granted now, but people were very resistant to change during the Victorian era, which is ironic because it was a time of some of the most rapid technological change ever experienced by mankind. All you have to do is beat the Kitty Hawk folks to the punch, right? And they only flew a few hundred feet. The trick to flying is in the shape of the wing, which creates more drag above it than below it, essentially creating lift. You can recreate that, right? What can you do? In order to have your cell phone reproduced, you need a purity of materials unknown at that time, not to mention the ability to have miniature capacitors, circuits, memory, and who knows what else. Also, Edison would probably steal your phone and then deny it, because he was an ass. What Edison would look like while you are there. You could try to bank on future events, like Queen Victoria dies in , but do you know the exact date? If not, no one will take you seriously. Well, surely you could contribute to the field of medicine, right? They were pretty backward at that time. At the very least you could

introduce antiseptic surgery and save a bunch of lives. Oh, wait, no, Joseph Lister already did that in If you have a hands-on skill, you may fare better, such as being a plumber, mechanic, electrician, etc. Find a famous historical person or company that you recognize, and invest in them. Give Edison a loan early on in his career. Invest in Western Electric, or Westinghouse, or any famous company involved in electricity. It has the biggest return on the least knowledge; all you need is their name. Why a book reader, you ask? Well, think of the things you could put on that Kindle: Victorian history, electronic engineering formulas, basic aerodynamics, internal combustion engines, and more. The sky is the limit. With the way the e-ink is set up, it uses hardly any battery power to be on, and only uses power to turn pages. So with that single Kindle, you can copy each page out onto paper by hand, and then have a permanent copy of it. Alternately, learn how to make a simple hand-crank generator that will allow you to charge its battery. As they say, knowledge is power. Though be careful about wagering money on when someone is going to die, lest they start to think you had something to do with it. Yeah, wear one of those. However, if you regularly carry a semi-automatic handgun, it might serve you well later. Beyond that, just keep your wits about you, and you should be okay. Clean any cuts or wounds you get with the strongest alcohol you can find, and make sure that any meat you eat is cooked all the way through. It may not hurt to keep this cheat-sheet folded up nicely in your wallet, either: Since publishing this article, a few things have been brought to my attention, the most important of which is the severity of the microbial danger a modern person would be in. While there are many bacteria we would be mostly safe from, there are tons of others that modern people are hardly ever exposed to, such as tuberculosis and dysentery. In reality, the bacteria of the time would make the past nearly unlivable for a modern person without access to constant supplies of modern medicines.

**Chapter 3 : Victorian Era Quotes (80 quotes)**

*When Adam Smith wrote in that England was a nation of shopkeepers, he meant that commerce was a major factor in political decisions. Smith's observation was even more on-target for Victorian England: shopkeepers, shops, and shopping were a vital part of life.*

The cost of living for the upper classes who do not depend so much upon bread as do the poor, did not vary very much during the thirties and forties, but by , the year of the Great Exhibition, it had fallen considerably. Beeton, who gives the average prices of her dishes, notes that in , soles were 1s. On the other hand, the servant problem was beginning to make itself felt. The establishments of have begun to contract. We may put the matter thus. About a lady with daughters writes: But it would not have been a comfortable life, and the curate or poor parson who had to do with less must have been very uncomfortable. In all ranks of life there are many who live from hand to mouth, and on these exceptions it is not proposed to touch. But in the majority of households, where there is more than one mouth to feed, something in the nature of a budget must be drawn up. In so wide a field there is endless variety both of income and expenditure; the difficulty of selecting any precise sums as typical of the various classes is necessarily great, and the dividing line is often very narrow. The Editor has chosen five representative groups. Of these the first is the household of the working-man in receipt of good weekly wages. The second is that of the clerk who earns his l. Then will come the family, ranking, according to circumstances, in the upper or middle-class, with an income of l. The Editor is convinced that each province of the Family Budgets has been entrusted to competent treatment. Nevertheless, since it is grown a general convention to call him workman who labours with his hands, and so distinguish him among all other workmen, I will save trouble and use the common phrase in this paper. The workman has suffered injuries, real and imaginary, of which we have heard much ; but more than all he has suffered from a pestilent generalisation. He has been called many things that are bad; perhaps more often he has been called everything that is good. His habits are so and so, says one; on the contrary, they are invariably such and such, says another. The truth being that the workman is merely a human being, and generalisation may safely go as far with him as with his race, and no farther. So that when I am asked to write of how a working man earning thirty shillings a week lays out the money, I am put under the temptation to fall into the sin I rebuke; for one might go far before finding two men, workmen or not, who would spend thirty shillings in exactly the same way. But between the drunkard, whose household starves while he soaks away his wages, and the weakling, whose wife takes every penny and scarce gives him one back, there lie many degrees, and one of them a mean. First, then, the budget must be considered in terms of weekly expenditure. The yearly or half-yearly balance-sheet, formal or informal, is for the man who reckons his income by the year, not for him who lives from Saturday to Saturday on weekly wages. Our particular example is of a manâ€”a married man, of courseâ€”living in a humble though decent neighbourhood in London, at no very great distance from his work. We will suppose the children to be three, and of school age, though this need not hinder us from glancing as we pass at the effect on the exchequer of an increase both in numbers and in age. We are of course assuming that his wife is not a fool, and, this postulate accepted, it is found that all that the family needs, with one single exception, can be bought at a cheaper rate than is paid for the same things by people of larger incomes. The single exception is house accommodation. Herein the workman is at a disadvantage. Rent varies of course with a dozen circumstances, but it is no very uncommon thing to find our thirty-shilling-a-week workman paying it to the amount of ten shillings a weekâ€”precisely a third of his incomeâ€”or even more. Consider how a man with six hundred a year would be regarded who lived in a house with a rent of two hundred. Ten shillings a week, however, would not be a fair average rent for our workman, taking all districts and all circumstances into the calculation. Let us say seven shillings though indeed I write the sum with some misgiving that it should really be a little more. For that he will get three roomsâ€”not very big rooms, as a general thingâ€”being the half of one of the six-roomed houses that make the bulk of the streets in East London. Thus it is seen that rather less than a quarter of the income goes in rent. It is a counsel of prudence among the middle classes, I believe, to pay no more than a tenth of the income in rent; though perhaps in

practice the sum is commonly something nearer an eighth. The relatively higher rent of small houses arises from an excessive demand, and from the fact that a workman must live within a reasonable distance of his work. Further, ground in the neighbourhoods where factories and workshops abound is commercially valuable for the erection of those very buildings, and this brings a new and serious element of competition into the conditions governing rents. Everything else he buys cheaply, always supposing that his wife is neither too stupid nor too lazy to avail herself of the advantages that offer. Sometimes I have had occasion to wish it for my own. Beef of the best parts is sold at sixpence a pound, the cheaper parts going at from this price down to threepence; salt-beef, two-pence-halfpenny to sixpence. The best possible rump steam, which will figure in our housekeeping bills at eighteenpence, costs tenpence or perhaps sometimes elevenpence. Excellent mutton - it is from New Zealand, but still excellent mutton - goes at fourpence-halfpenny to fivepence-halfpenny for legs, and the breast is no more than three-halfpence or at most twopence, a pound. Fillet of veal will be sevenpence-halfpenny, and in the season loin of pork can be bought at from fourpence-halfpenny to sixpence. I have seen oxtail for twopence-halfpenny, and the biggest in the shop would only cost sixpence. As to fish, cod of the best cut is to be bought at threepence and the head and shoulder at twopence a pound; plaice is fourpence, lemon soles threepence, and Brighton soles fourpence to sixpence; crimped skate threepence a pound or less. Here in the season peas cost from threepence to eightpence a peck, and a good cauliflower may cost as much as twopence - commonly less. English tomatoes range from fourpence to sixpence a pound, while the foreign are half the price. Excellent cooking apples may be had at a penny a pound, and good eating sorts at twopence and threepence. Potatoes vary with season and age, but are generally somewhere near half the price charged by the more expensive tradesmen. Every purchase is for cash in hand, and the purchaser, of course, carries away the goods. Whether or not these two conditions, with perhaps a lower scale of shop-rent, sufficiently account for the wide difference between the prices in East and West London, I will not attempt to guess. But I know that shopkeepers in the cheap markets do uncommonly well. Of course these advantages are for the sober and thrifty. Their poor living costs them more relatively than good living costs people of the middle classes. And now to our balance-sheet. It is never - so far as I have seen - an actual sheet of paper worked upon with figures at the end of the week. Rather the wife works it out in rough and ready fashion, penny by penny, as the week goes. On the one side, as we have seen, is the thirty shillings of wages, and nothing else. We will suppose that thirty shillings is duly entered by being brought home whole on Saturday, which is the general pay-day, though some men are paid on Friday. Other shops and stalls are better dealt with in the evening, for then things grow cheaper. Moreover, late in the evening one can bargain more effectually, by reason that the tradesman would rather take a small profit than keep perishable goods on his hands till Monday, itself the slackest day of the week. She buys a quarter of a pound of tea, which comes, nowadays, to fourpence-halfpenny. Next she has a quarter of a pound of coffee, ready ground - threepence. There is a deal of chicory in it, of course, at this price, but it is a curious fact that the workman and his wife prefer coffee in which the flavour of chicory - to most people suggestive of boiled crusts - predominates, and would regard pure coffee as insipid. Moreover, the mixture makes coffee of greater thickness and apparent strength than does the same quantity of a pure article. A pound of loaf sugar and two pounds of moist will be enough for the week, the former costing twopence and the latter, at three-halfpence a pound, threepence. Then she will buy a jar of jam, containing three pounds, for sevenpence-halfpenny. This sounds a little forbidding, perhaps, but as a matter of fact I believe it is a clean and wholesome enough article, made, it is said, largely from fruit which has already been partly bled to make jelly. The three-pound jar will probably last well over the week end, unless used for puddings, or made a substitute for butter in more than usual quantity, in which case it will last the week only. The grocer may also be the cheesemonger, but whether so or not, the next purchase will be half a pound of butter, which will cost sixpence. This will be little more than half enough for the whole needs of the week, but it will be eked out by dripping and by the jam afore-mentioned. Eight eggs for sixpence, a pound of bacon rashers at eightpence, and half a pound of Cheddar cheese - probably American - which will cost threepence, and the grocer and cheesemonger is done with for the day.

### Chapter 4 : 56 Delightful Victorian Slang Terms You Should Be Using | Mental Floss

*Shopping during the Victorian era was extremely different to now. Where we walk into a store and pick up what we want, the Victorians had to wait to be served by either the shop keeper or shop assistants depending on the size of the store.*

This was the period to This was an extensive period of prosperity, peace, refined responsiveness and great national self-possession for England. But even this era could not survive itself from the social class system. Victorian England social hierarchy demonstrates the social class system and the social divisions of England people on certain terms and conditions in a pre-defined specific ladder of pattern. But there were some changes in social class system during this era as compared to the traditional social class system of England. For an example the aristocrat class got changed to upper class. Some of the increasingly powerful upper middle class categories secured their places in this upper class. The Victorian England social hierarchy is described below in a descending order pattern means starting with the uppermost power holder social class and going on further describing all the classes in brief. The people under this class did not work manually. Their income normally came from the investments made by them or from the inherited lands. Their routine work was fulfilled by the lower class people. This class further got sub divided in three parts as below

- â€” Royal Class â€” This include people from royal family and the spiritual lords of that time.
- â€” Middle Upper Class â€” This class include great officers of the England, the baronets along with temporal lords.
- â€” Lower Upper Class â€” This class include country wealthy gentleman and large scale business men who had made their way with the immense wealth they possessed.

The Middle Class These were the people who used to work meaning they had jobs to do. They made their living from the salaries they got according to the job done. This class included the following sub-classes.

- â€” Higher Level Middle Class â€” These were high in terms of salaries and social status as compared to lower middle class.
- â€” Lower Level Middle Class â€” These were the people who worked on the orders of the higher level middle class people.
- â€” The Working Class These were the group of labors which further got sub divided into two divisions.
- â€” Skilled Class â€” They had unskilled labors working under their supervision.
- â€” Unskilled Class â€” They were lowest category labor people. These were sort of helpless people who depended on others.
- â€” The Poor â€” These were poor people and orphans who relied on the charity of others.
- â€” The Prostitutes â€” These women were at the bottom of the society and an enormous debate took place over them during the Victorian era.

## Chapter 5 : Photo collection of stores from the s in the USA & England

*When Adam Smith wrote in that England was a nation of shopkeepers, he meant that commerce was a major factor in political decisions. Smith's observation was even more on-target for Victorian England: shopkeepers, shops, and shopping were a vital part of life. Those Victorians with resources.*

Share4 Shares 47K My birthday is on Monday so today I am in a mood of recollecting that life is short and we should live it to the full. The Victorians were a special breed and this list looks at 10 aspects of life from the Victorian era that are creepy. Note that the focus is entirely on Victorian England. Be sure to post any we have missed in the comments. One of the popular forms of entertainment was for friends and family to dress up in outrageous costumes and pose for each other. This sounds innocent " but just think: The idea is, in fact, creepy. But for the Victorians, this was perfectly normal and fun. They were usually filthy and full to the brim of societies unwanted people. At the time, poverty was seen as dishonorable as it came from a lack of the moral virtue of industriousness. Many of the people who lived in the poorhouses were required to work to contribute to the cost of their board and it was not uncommon for whole families to live together with other families in the communal environment. The pea-soupers were caused by a combination of fogs from the River Thames and smoke from the coal fires that were an essential part of Victorian life. Interestingly London had suffered from these pea-soupers for centuries " in , King Edward I banned coal fires because of the smog. In , 12 thousand Londoners died due to the smog causing the government to pass the Clean Air Act which created smog free zones. The Victorian atmosphere in literature and modern film is greatly enhanced by the thick smog due and this creepy environment made possible the acts of people like Jack the Ripper. England currently produces some of the finest food in the world. The Victorians loved offal and ate virtually every part of an animal. This is not entirely creepy if you are a food fanatic like me but for the average person, the idea of supping on a bowl of brains and heart is not appealing. Another famous dish from the Victorian era was turtle soup. The turtle was prized above all for its green jello-like fat which was used to flavor the soup made from the long-boiled stringy flesh of the animal. Due to dwindling numbers, turtles are seldom eaten nowadays, though it is possible to purchase them in some states of America where they are plentiful. There was no anesthesia, no painkillers for after, and no electric equipment to reduce the duration of an operation. Here is a description of one surgery: A dresser immediately tightens a tourniquet to stem the blood. As the patient screams with pain, Liston puts the knife away and grabs the saw. With an assistant exposing the bone, Liston begins to cut. Suddenly, the nervous student who has been volunteered to steady the injured leg realises he is supporting its full weight. With a shudder he drops the severed limb into a waiting box of sawdust. Even the Americans got in on the act with Edgar Allen Poe producing some of the greatest gothic literature of the time. The Victorians knew how to frighten people and they knew how to do it in grand style. These works still form the basis of much modern horror and their power to thrill has not dwindled in the least. Using the pea-soupers as a cover, the Ripper ultimately slaughtered five or more prostitutes working in the East End. Newspapers, whose circulation had been growing during this era, bestowed widespread and enduring notoriety on the killer because of the savagery of the attacks and the failure of the police to capture the murderer. Many authors, historians, and amateur detectives have proposed theories about the identity of the killer and his victims. Probably the most famous member of a freak show is the Elephant Man pictured above. His left side was overgrown and distorted causing him to wear a mask for most of his life. There can be no doubt that the Victorian freak shows were one of the creepiest aspects of society at the time. In the Victorian era, photography was young and extremely costly. When a loved one died, their relatives would sometimes have a photograph taken of the corpse in a pose " oftentimes with other members of the family. For the vast majority of Victorians, this was the only time they would be photographed. Adults were more commonly posed in chairs or even braced on specially-designed frames. Flowers were also a common prop in post-mortem photography of all types. In the photo above, the fact that the girl is dead is made slightly more obvious and creepy by the fact that the slight movement of her parents causes them to be slightly blurred due to the long exposure time, while the girl is deathly still and, thus, perfectly in focus. When her husband Albert

died in , she went into mourning “ donning black frocks until her own death many years later “ and expected her nation to do so too. She avoided public appearances and rarely set foot in London in the following years. Ironically, since Victoria disliked black funerals so much, London was festooned in purple and white when she died.

**Chapter 6 : Gone to the Shops: Shopping in Victorian England by Kelley Graham**

*People in the Victorian period would go shopping everyday and bought small amounts of groceries. There were no supermarkets in the 19th century, but little stores of different kinds. The Victorian stores opened six days a week and would stay open in the evening until the last customer left.*

Back then, people were forced to think of some imaginative ways to earn a living, from seeking out treasure in the sewers to literally selling excrement. The job usually fell to poor country women, who would wade into dirty ponds in the hope of attracting a host of leeches. Leeches can survive for up to a year with no food, so they could be stored at the pharmacy to be dished out as required. Unsurprisingly, leech collectors were in danger of suffering from excess blood loss and infectious diseases. Dog poop was known as "pure" because it was used to purify the leather and make it more flexible [ PDF ]. Leather was in great demand in Victorian times, as it was used not only as tack for horses but for shoes, boots, bags, and in bookbinding. Pure collectors haunted the streets where stray dogs amassed, scooping up the poop and keeping it in a covered bucket before selling it on to the tanners. Some collectors wore a black glove to protect their scooping hand, but others considered it harder to keep a glove clean than a hand and eschewed the protection altogether. Toshers made their living down in the dark sewers, sifting through raw sewage to find any valuables that had fallen down the drain. It was extremely dangerous work: Noxious fumes formed deadly pockets, the tunnels frequently crumbled, there were swarms of rats, and at any moment the sluices might be opened and a tide of filthy water might wash the toshers away. As a result of these dangers, toshers generally worked in groups, instantly recognizable in their canvas trousers, aprons with many large pockets in which to stash their booty, and lanterns strapped to their chests. Most toshers also carried a long pole with a hoe at the end to investigate piles of human waste for dropped treasures, or with which to steady themselves if they stumbled in the gloom. After it became illegal to enter the sewers without permission and so toshers began working late at night or early in the morning to avoid detection. Despite the stinking and dangerous conditions, it was a lucrative business for the working classes, with many a coin or silver spoon sloshing about in the quagmire. In the Victorian era, this work was mainly performed by teenage girls who worked in terrible conditions, often for between 12 and 16 hours a day with few breaks. MUDLARK Like the toshers, these workers made their meagre money from dredging through the gloop looking for items of value to sell, although in this case they were plying their messy trade on the shores of the Thames instead of mostly in the sewers. Seen as a step down from a tosher, the mudlarks were usually children, who collected anything that could be sold, including rags for making paper, driftwood dried out for firewood and any coins or treasure that might find its way into the river. Not only was it a filthy job, but it was also very dangerous, since the tidal nature of the Thames meant it was easy for children to be washed away or become stuck in the soft mud. Inhaling the dust and smoke from chimneys meant many chimney sweeps suffered irreversible lung damage. Smaller sweeps were the most sought-after, so many were deliberately underfed to stunt their growth and most had outgrown the profession by the age of 16. Some poor children became stuck in the chimneys or were unwilling to make the climb, and anecdotal evidence suggests their bosses might light a fire underneath to inspire the poor mite to find their way out at the top of the chimney. Fortunately, an law made it illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to climb and clean a chimney, though some unscrupulous fellows still continued the practice. Catching rats was a dangerous business not only did the vermin harbor disease, but their bites could cause terrible infections. The rats could be stored like this for days as long as Black fed them if he forgot, the rats would begin fighting and eating each other, ruining his spoils. Crossing sweepers were regarded as just a step up from beggars, and worked in the hopes of receiving a tip. Their services were no doubt sometimes appreciated: The streets during this period were mud-soaked and piled with horse manure. The poor sweepers not only had to endure the dismal conditions whatever the weather, but were also constantly dodging speeding horse-drawn cabs and omnibuses. Medical schools paid a handsome fee to those delivering a body in good condition, and as a result many wily Victorians saw an opportunity to make some money by robbing recently dug graves. The problem became so severe that family members took to guarding the graves of the recently deceased to prevent the

resurrectionists sneaking in and unearthing their dearly departed. The "profession" was taken to an extreme by William Burke and William Hare who were thought to have murdered 16 unfortunates between and The pair enticed victims to their boarding house, plied them with alcohol and then suffocated them, ensuring the body stayed in good enough condition to earn the fee paid by Edinburgh University medical school for corpses. After the crimes of Burke and Hare were discovered, the Anatomy Act of finally helped bring an end to the grisly resurrectionist trade by giving doctors and anatomists greater access to cadavers and allowing people to leave their bodies to medical science.

**Chapter 7 : How to Survive and Thrive in the Victorian Era Â« Steampunk R&D :: WonderHowTo**

*Exploring the world of Victorian shops and shopping, this book offers information on the types of shops and goods they offered, the people who owned and operated them, those who frequented them, and.*

Victorian clothes were very much a symbol of who you were, what you did for a living, and how much money was in your bank account. For Men and Woman For the wealthy, silk stockings covered the legs. For the less wealthy, it was wool socks. Beachwear in Victorian times consisted of a costume which covered the entire body with yards of material. There were exceptions though - arms could be bare from the elbows down. Ladies had to have their legs completely covered. This was either done by wearing black stockings or, later in the century, trousers. Men were able to show their shins. Bathing bonnets were worn by both. Good quality leather shoes could always be made-to-order, but by manufactured shoes were available for purchase. Etiquette played its part in Victorian clothing. To own an umbrella was a social-scale barometer. The wealthy owned their own bumbershoots, while the general public would rent an umbrella if the weather turned wet. Victorian dress was not complete without a walking stick, or cane. Some canes contained compartments which were useful for holding vials of perfume. Victorian fashion did include eyeglasses, But, they were strictly for looks and not for the correction of vision. Often, if there were lenses in the frames, those lenses were removed and the empty frames would become part of the ensemble. Seamstresses and tailors were responsible for custom-made creations. Milliners, glovers, and hatters would help to complete the look. The poorer members of society would visit second-hand, even third and fourth-hand, shops for garments which still had some wear in them. For Ladies Only Throughout the Victorian era, fashion changed dramatically. Skirts went from straight to being spread over large hoops. At the end of the era, the hoop disappeared from view and it was back to slimmer skirts, although now sporting a bustle. Sleeves made different fashion statements, also. Head gear was a style all its own. From large lavishly decorated hats, covered with feathers and flowers, the close-fitting bonnet was soon the need-to-have garment. Not that these were any plainer - feathers, lace, and flowers would still be used for decoration. There was a constant, though; the corset. The design throughout the era would change, but the initial purpose never varied. To wear Victorian dress, it was necessary to have a cinched-in waist. For younger ladies, having a waist in inches the same as your age was the goal. That meant you would strive for a seventeen inch waist. Older ladies were allowed more leeway. The baring of the shoulder and upper part of the chest was strictly for evening apparel, and most usually this style was worn by upper and middle class ladies. Working-class women were more modest. Because of the exposure of flesh to cool air, shawls joined the Victorian costume. Satins, silks, and heavy velvets for the older generation were the norm. For younger society ladies who were on the look-out for "a good catch", the lighter the material, the better. On average, these dresses were worn only once or twice Middle-class women bought either garments, or ready-made clothes, with the idea that they would last. If necessary, the garment would at some point be cut-down so that it could be worn by children. For the well-dressed female tradesman aka "monger" , a bright silk scarf would be worn around the neck, and a flower-strewn bonnet would adorn the head. Brightly polished boots would be proudly shown beneath a many petticoated skirt, which just reached to the ankles. But coat lengths did vary over time and the cinching of the waist yes, men would wear a type of corset gave way to the ease-of-breathing loose jacket. This appearance soon changed to a looser tubular style. Straight slacks, with a crease in front and back, were common by the end of the century. The elegant dress-coat for the day slowly gave way to a long frock coat, usually black. The dress coat did continue to make appearances, though. Games and cycling were the major catalysts for any change in male Victorian clothes. Plaids and checks were seen more often, although most often in the country. Like his female counterpart, a male monger would wear a bright silk scarf around his neck. Atop his head would be a closely fitting cap which completely covered his hair. A long waistcoat and seamed trousers would complete his Victorian costume, ending with the sight of polished boots. Article by "Tudor Rose".

**Chapter 8 : Reframing the Victorians: Shops and Lives of Shop Assistants in the Victorian Era.**

*If you visit Victorian England right at the end of Queen Victoria's reign, a look inside one of the luxurious department stores or draper's emporiums is highly recommended. From the s, shopping had become a leisure pursuit for the wealthy and the largest drapery stores, especially in London, employed hundreds of staff to cater to the needs.*

Her reign lasted for 63 years and seven months, a longer period than any of her predecessors. Definitions that purport a distinct sensibility or politics to the era have also created scepticism about the worth of the label "Victorian", though there have also been defences of it. He saw the latter period as characterised by a distinctive mixture of prosperity, domestic prudery, and complacency [11] – what G. Trevelyan similarly called the "mid-Victorian decades of quiet politics and roaring prosperity". The Act abolished many borough seats and created others in their place, as well as expanding the franchise in England and Wales a Scottish Reform Act and Irish Reform Act were passed separately. Minor reforms followed in and Her government was led by the Whig prime minister Lord Melbourne, but within two years he had resigned, and the Tory politician Sir Robert Peel attempted to form a new ministry. It proved a very happy marriage, whose children were much sought after by royal families across Europe. However, a disastrous retreat from Kabul in the same year led to the annihilation of a British army column in Afghanistan. In , the Great Famine began to cause mass starvation, disease and death in Ireland, sparking large-scale emigration; [14] To allow more cheap food into Ireland, the Peel government repealed the Corn Laws. Peel was replaced by the Whig ministry of Lord John Russell. The goal was to ensure that Russia could not benefit from the declining status of the Ottoman Empire, [16] a strategic consideration known as the Eastern Question. On its conclusion in with the Treaty of Paris, Russia was prohibited from hosting a military presence in the Crimea. During –'8, an uprising by sepoys against the East India Company was suppressed, an event that led to the end of Company rule in India and the transferral of administration to direct rule by the British government. The princely states were not affected and remained under British guidance. Society and culture Evangelicals, Utilitarians and reform The central feature of Victorian era politics is the search for reform and improvement, including both the individual personality and the society. First was the rapid rise of the middle class, in large part displacing the complete control long exercised by the aristocracy. Respectability was their code – a businessman had to be trusted, and must avoid reckless gambling and heavy drinking. Second the spiritual reform closely linked to evangelical Christianity, including both the Nonconformist sects, such as the Methodists, and especially the evangelical or Low Church element in the established Church of England, typified by Lord Shaftesbury – Starting with the anti-slavery movement of the s, the evangelical moralizers developed highly effective techniques of enhancing the moral sensibilities of all family members, and reaching the public at large through intense, very well organized agitation and propaganda. They focused on exciting a personal revulsion against social evils and personal misbehavior. They were not moralistic but scientific. Their movement, often called "Philosophic Radicalism," fashioned a formula for promoting the goal of "progress" using scientific rationality, and businesslike efficiency, to identify, measure, and discover solutions to social problems. The formula was inquiry, legislation, execution, inspection, and report. Evangelicals and utilitarians shared a basic middle-class ethic of responsibility, and formed a political alliance. The result was an irresistible force for reform. Even more important were political reforms, especially the lifting of disabilities on nonconformists and Roman Catholics, and above all, the reform of Parliament and elections to introduce democracy and replace the old system whereby senior aristocrats controlled dozens of seats in parliament. This sketch is from an issue of Punch, printed in November that year. Religion was a battleground during this era, with the Nonconformists fighting bitterly against the established status of the Church of England, especially regarding education and access to universities and public office. Penalties on Roman Catholics were mostly removed. The Vatican restored the English Catholic bishoprics in and numbers grew through conversions and immigration from Ireland. Houghton argues, "Perhaps the most important development in 19th-century intellectual history was the extension of scientific assumptions and methods from the physical world to the whole life of man. The "Nonconformist conscience" of the Old group emphasised religious freedom and

equality, the pursuit of justice, and opposition to discrimination, compulsion, and coercion. The New Dissenters and also the Anglican evangelicals stressed personal morality issues, including sexuality, temperance, family values, and Sabbath -keeping. Both factions were politically active, but until the mid-19th century, the Old group supported mostly Whigs and Liberals in politics, while the New "like most Anglicans" generally supported Conservatives. In the late 19th century, the New Dissenters mostly switched to the Liberal Party. The result was a merging of the two groups, strengthening their great weight as a political pressure group. They joined together on new issues especially regarding schools and temperance, with the latter of special interest to Methodists. They could not hold most public offices, they had to pay local taxes to the Anglican church, be married by Anglican ministers, and be denied attendance at Oxford or degrees at Cambridge. Dissenters demanded the removal of political and civil disabilities that applied to them especially those in the Test and Corporation Acts. The Anglican establishment strongly resisted until It was a major achievement for an outside group, but the Dissenters were not finished and the early Victorian period saw them even more active and successful in eliminating their grievances. Only buildings of the established church received the tax money. Civil disobedience was attempted but was met with the seizure of personal property and even imprisonment. The compulsory factor was finally abolished in by William Ewart Gladstone , and payment was made voluntary. Nonconformist ministers in their own chapels were allowed to marry couples if a registrar was present. Also in , civil registration of births, deaths, and marriages was taken from the hands of local parish officials and given to local government registrars. Burial of the dead was a more troubling problem, for urban chapels had no graveyards, and Nonconformists sought to use the traditional graveyards controlled by the established church. The Burial Laws Amendment Act finally allowed that. Cambridge required that for a diploma. The two ancient universities opposed giving a charter to the new University of London in the s because it had no such restriction. The university, nevertheless, was established in , and by the s Oxford dropped its restrictions. In Gladstone sponsored the Universities Tests Act that provided full access to degrees and fellowships. Nonconformists especially Unitarians and Presbyterians played major roles in founding new universities in the late 19th century at Manchester , as well as Birmingham , Liverpool and Leeds. Huxley coined the term. It was much discussed for several decades, and had its own journal edited by William Stewart Ross "the Agnostic Journal and Eclectic Review. Interest petered out by the s, and when Ross died the Journal soon closed. Ross championed agnosticism in opposition not so much to Christianity, but to atheism, as expounded by Charles Bradlaugh [42] The term "atheism" never became popular. Blasphemy laws meant that promoting atheism could be a crime and was vigorously prosecuted. The literary figures were caught in something of a trap "their business was writing and their theology said there was nothing for certain to write. They instead concentrated on the argument that it was not necessary to believe in God in order to behave in moral fashion. Separate spheres and Women in the Victorian era The centrality of the family was a dominant feature for all classes. Worriers repeatedly detected threats that had to be dealt with: The licentiousness so characteristic of the upper class of the late 18th and early 19th century dissipated. The home became a refuge from the harsh world; middle-class wives sheltered their husbands from the tedium of domestic affairs. The number of children shrank, allowing much more attention to be paid to each child. Extended families were less common, as the nuclear family became both the ideal and the reality. Instead they should dominate in the realm of domestic life, focused on care of the family, the husband, the children, the household, religion, and moral behaviour. They taught in Sunday schools, visited the poor and sick, distributed tracts, engaged in fundraising, supported missionaries, led Methodist class meetings, prayed with other women, and a few were allowed to preach to mixed audiences. The poem was not pure invention, but reflected the emerging legal economic social, cultural, religious and moral values of the Victorian middle-class. Legally women had limited rights to their own bodies, the family property, or their children. The recognized identities were those of daughter, wife, mother, and widow. Meanwhile, the home sphere grew dramatically in size; women spent the money and decided on the furniture, clothing, food, schooling, and outward appearance the family would make. This made their work highly attractive to the middle-class women who bought the novels and the serialized versions that appeared in many magazines. However, a few early feminists called for aspirations beyond the home. By the end of the century, the "New Woman" was riding a

bicycle, wearing bloomers, signing petitions, supporting worldwide mission activities, and talking about the vote. The public school became a model for gentlemen and for public service. Victorian literature In prose , the novel rose from a position of relative neglect during the s to become the leading literary genre by the end of the era. With the arrival of the railway network, seaside towns became popular destinations for Victorian holiday makers Popular forms of entertainment varied by social class. Michael Balfe was the most popular British grand opera composer of the period, while the most popular musical theatre was a series of fourteen comic operas by Gilbert and Sullivan , although there was also musical burlesque and the beginning of Edwardian musical comedy in the s. Drama ranged from low comedy to Shakespeare see Henry Irving. There were, however, other forms of entertainment. Gentlemen went to dining clubs, like the Beefsteak club or the Savage club. Gambling at cards in establishments popularly called casinos was wildly popular during the period: The band stand was a simple construction that not only created an ornamental focal point, but also served acoustic requirements whilst providing shelter from the changeable British weather. It was common to hear the sound of a brass band whilst strolling through parklands. At this time musical recording was still very much a novelty. The permanent structure sustained three fires but as an institution lasted a full century, with Andrew Ducrow and William Batty managing the theatre in the middle part of the century. Fanque also stands out as a black man who achieved great success and enjoyed great admiration among the British public only a few decades after Britain had abolished slavery. Such activities were more popular at this time than in other periods of recent Western history. Amateur collectors and natural history entrepreneurs played an important role in building the large natural history collections of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Large numbers travelling to quiet fishing villages such as Worthing , Morecambe and Scarborough began turning them into major tourist centres, and people like Thomas Cook saw tourism and even overseas travel as viable businesses. Britain was an active competitor in all the Olympic Games starting in Economy, industry and trade Further information: Much of the prosperity was due to the increasing industrialisation, especially in textiles and machinery, as well as to the worldwide network of trade and engineering that produced profits for British merchants, and exports from[ clarification needed ] across the globe. There was peace abroad apart from the short Crimean war, 1853–56 , and social peace at home. Opposition to the new order melted away, says Porter. The Chartist movement peaked as a democratic movement among the working class in 1848; its leaders moved to other pursuits, such as trade unions and cooperative societies. The working class ignored foreign agitators like Karl Marx in their midst, and joined in celebrating the new prosperity.

### Chapter 9 : Victorian era - Wikipedia

*In the history of the United Kingdom, the Victorian era was the period of Queen Victoria's reign, from 20 June until her death on 22 January The era followed the Georgian period and preceded the Edwardian period, and its later half overlaps with the first part of the Belle Époque era of Continental Europe.*