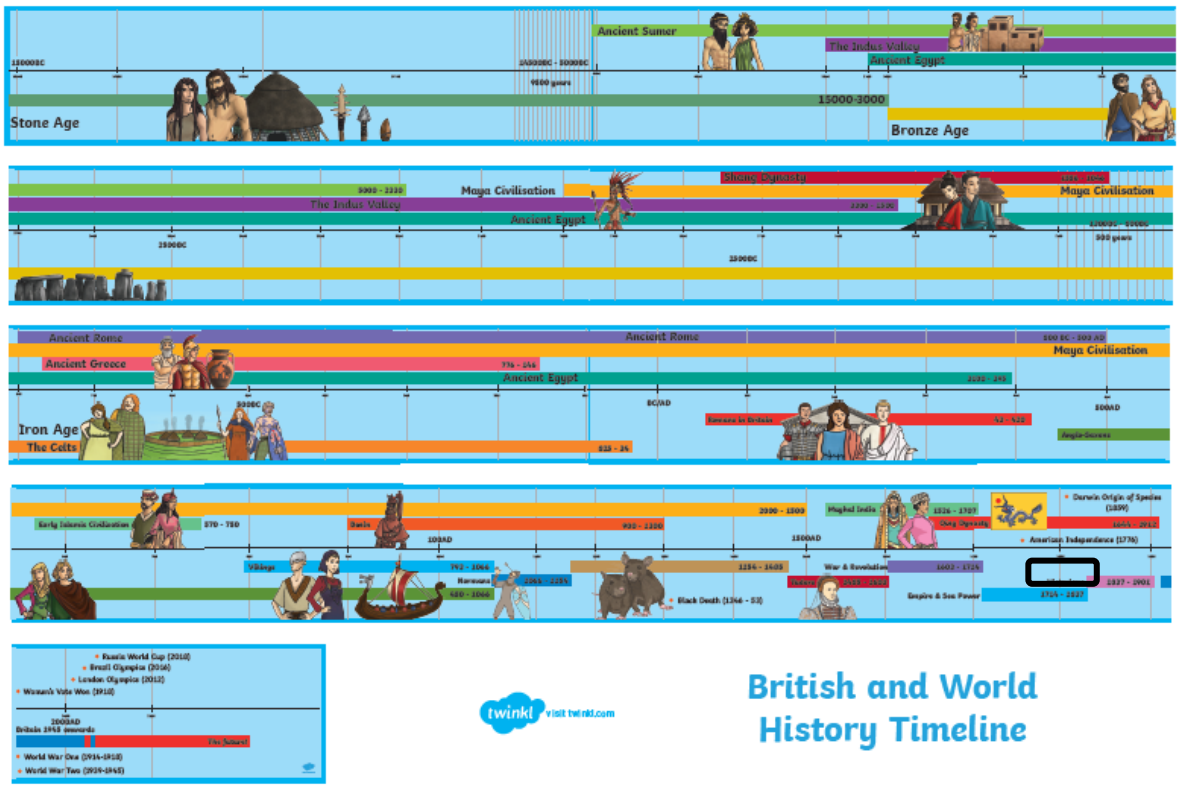
Coley Primary School – Knowledge Organiser

SUBJECT FOCUS:	HISTORY – Local Area Study – Victorian Era	YEAR 6	AUTUMN

British and World History Timeline



Historians take events and place them on a **timeline**. ... Therefore, a **timeline** is an **important** secondary source for understanding history. The ability to analyse and draw conclusions from **timelines** is **important** to the study of history.

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British and World History Timeline

Victorian Timeline

1837	Queen Victoria inherits the throne aged 18
1838	Oliver Twist, by Charles Dickens, is published First practical photographic process invented by Louis Daguerre
1840s	Railway network rapidly expands
1840	Queen Victoria marries Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha
1842	Factory Act forbids the employment of children in coal mines
1845	Potato famine in Ireland
1847	Factory Act limits children's working hours to 10 per day
1850s	Crinoline is fashionable for women and girls
1851	The Great Exhibition opens in Hyde Park Isaac Singer invents the first practical domestic sewing machine
1855	Florence Nightingale goes to Scutari to nurse soldiers injured in the Crimean War (1854-1856)
1861	Prince Albert dies of typhoid
1863	First underground railway built in London The Water Babies, by Charles Kingsley, is published
1870	Education Act makes school compulsory for children aged 5-10 Dr. Barnado opens first home for poor boys in East End
1875	Telephone invented by Alexander Graham Bell
1877	Queen Victoria is proclaimed Empress of India
1879	Thomas Edison invents the electric light
1887	Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee
1891	Schooling is made free for all
1894	First motor car is brought to Britain from Germany
1899	Boer War begins (ends 1902)
1901	Queen Victoria dies

Key Knowledge

When was the Victorian Era?

- The time when Queen Victoria reigned is called the **Victorian era or Victorian age**. She was queen from **1837 to 1901**, and a lot of things happened in Britain during that time – see timeline above.
- During the 64 years that Queen Victoria was on the throne, Britain was also going through the **Industrial Revolution**. Machines for factories were invented that could make things quickly, like textiles – so, there were more textiles around to sell, and more people who wanted to buy them. With the invention of the steam train, the textiles could get to places further away than before.
- Life in the Victorian era changed very quickly for a lot of people, and cities became busier and more crowded.

Key Knowledge

Industrial Revolution

1. During the Victorian era, the **Industrial Revolution** was happening – 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.
2. One big reason why the Industrial Revolution happened was because of **steam power** – this lead to the invention of steam trains, which made it faster to travel and to send goods.
3. A way to make steel from iron was also discovered, which made it easier to make machines for **factories** and to even build the factories themselves.
4. All of these things during the Industrial Revolution meant that lots of products could be made in the same place at the same time – this is called **mass production.** Before this, it would have been just one tradesman making one thing at a time.
5. By 1901, half of all the people who lived in Britain lived in **cities.** This was a huge change because most people had lived in the country around the start of the Victorian era.

The Railways

Before the Victorian era, it took days – sometimes weeks – to travel places. Inventions such as the steam train and the iron steam ship meant that travel took a lot less time, so people started going to places where they wouldn't have thought to before, like the (modern day) United States of America and India

1812 - Invention of the steam train
1825 - The first railroad opens in Britain
1850 - Luxury steam trains with soft seats, sleeping and dining
1879 – The first electric train presented in Berlin (Germany)

The Need for Effective Transportation

The increased use of factories and need for raw materials (due to the industrial revolution between 1750s -1850s), along with an increase in population (and need for food) meant Britain needed a way to transport larger amounts, quicker than ever before. Roads were not good enough and canals were a slow form of transportation.

Railway Mania!

After the invention of the steam engine, railways really started to take off. Stephenson's Rocket was the first to transport passengers in 1830 from Manchester to Liverpool and by 1848 over 7000km of railway track had been built connecting London to most major cities.

Positive Effects

Seaside resorts developed making cheap day trips possible, the delivery of post became faster, factory owners could get raw materials and products to market faster, national newspapers developed, suburbs of towns developed as richer people moved there to travel to work by train, it created more jobs, it allowed children to travel into cities to attend schools and travel became faster and cheaper generally.

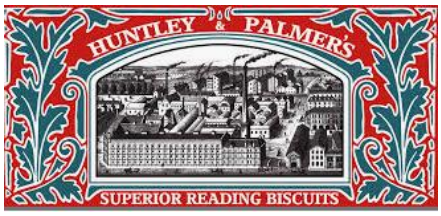
Negative Effects

Pollution increased, canals and stage coach companies could not compete with locomotives and coaching inns lost profits.



Reading – Huntley and Palmers

- The nineteenth century was a period of great social, political and industrial change in Britain. It was a time of rapid population increase. Many towns, like Reading, were transformed from small villages into sprawling urban centres. Reading was known for the 'Three B's' - Biscuits, Beer and Bulbs. To which many add a fourth industry - Bricks.
- From 1870 until the 1970s, Reading was known as 'Biscuit Town' because of the fame of Huntley & Palmers biscuits. The population of Reading boomed and the firm influenced almost every aspect of life in the town.
- Huntley & Palmers started life in 1822 as a small bakery in London Street, Reading. In 1846 the firm opened a large factory on Kings Road in Reading and by 1900 this business was the largest biscuit manufacturer in the world, employing over 5,000 people.
- From eight employees in 1841 to over 5,000 at the turn of the century, the firm of Huntley & Palmers touched the lives of many people. Whole families were employed in the factory which was the size of a small town.
- The terraced houses of New Town, Reading were built from the 1870s and its proximity to the factory made it a popular place for the employees to live.
- The rapid growth of the town can be most easily shown by looking a series of maps produced in the course of the century. In a short period of time what had been open green fields was covered with suburbs. Reading changed from being a market town to a smoky industrial town.



Key Vocabulary	
primary sources	provide a first-hand account of an event or time period e.g. photographs
secondary sources	created by someone who did not experience first-hand or participate in the events or conditions e.g. textbooks
maps	diagrammatic representation of an area of land or sea showing physical features, cities, roads, etc.
census	a count of the population
street directory	a list of people living in a **street**
architecture	the art or practice of designing and constructing buildings – design features from different historical periods
artefacts	an object made by a human being, typically one of cultural or historical interest

Possible experiences

- Local history study - walk to discover how history is represented in local housing
- Victorian Town Trail
- Berkshire Records Office – explore street directories and census data
- Maps – explore the process of urbansisation
- Artefacts – discover how Victorian artefacts were used locally
- Huntley and Palmers – Reading Museum – discover how the famous biscuit factory changed Victorian Reading