Ocean Academy Poole
an Aspirations Academy
Self-Worth | Engagement | Purpose

Learning Journey Map

Year: 6 **Term: Summer**
Subject: Geography **Topic: The Victorians - links to Trade Triangle.**

Driving Question: See Geography - Trade
Power Skill: Collaboration

National Curriculum Learning Objectives

- They should note connections, contrasts and trends over time
- a local history study

Key Vocabulary

Trade	Victorians	Colony	Empire	Navigation
Industry	Merchant	Economy	Factory	Port
Import	Export	Social reform	Dock	Ethical

Key Learning







Overview

This term, children in Year 6 will be learning about the Victorian era (1837–1901), one of the most important and transformative periods in British history. Through this topic, children will explore what life was like for people living during Queen Victoria's reign, a time of great change, invention, industry, and expansion.

Children will begin by developing a clear understanding of the chronology of the Victorian period, placing it within the wider context of British history. They will learn about key events, such as the Industrial Revolution, the growth of cities, and the expansion of the British Empire, and explore how these changes impacted everyday life.

A key part of their learning will focus on the contrasts in Victorian society, comparing the lives of the rich and poor. Children will investigate the experiences of Victorian children, many of whom worked long hours in factories, mines, or as servants. They will also learn about improvements in education, health and housing, and consider how reformers helped change things for the better.

This unit also provides an exciting opportunity to explore a local history link by looking at Poole's role in the Trade Triangle during Victorian times. Children will learn how goods such as salted cod, sugar, rum, and pottery were traded between Poole, Newfoundland, and the Caribbean, and how this trade brought both wealth and hardship to different communities. By investigating the stories of local merchants, dock workers, and families, children will understand how Poole was connected to the wider world.

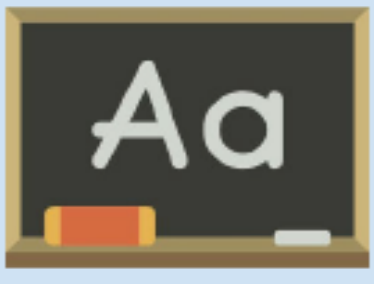
Using historical sources, including photographs, maps, artefacts, and shipping records, children will develop important skills in historical enquiry. They will ask and answer questions, analyse evidence, and consider different viewpoints about the impact of trade and empire.

Throughout the unit, children will take part in a range of activities, including role play, diary writing, debates, and possibly a visit to Poole Museum or a walk around the historic quay.

By the end of the topic, children will have a strong understanding of what life was like in Victorian Britain, how the country changed, and how their own town of Poole played a part in this important period of history.

Introduction to the Victorian Era

Children will learn about the timeframe of the Victorian era, understanding that it lasted from 1837 to 1901 during Queen Victoria's reign. They will place this period accurately on a historical timeline to build their chronological understanding. Through exploring key features such as the **Industrial Revolution**, urban growth, and technological advancements, children will gain a broad overview of the major changes that shaped Britain during this time.



Thinking point
How do you think life as a Victorian child would have felt different depending on whether you were rich or poor? What might this tell us about fairness and how society has changed over time?



Life in Victorian Britain

In this lesson, children will investigate the contrasting daily lives of rich and poor people in Victorian Britain. They will focus particularly on children's experiences, discovering how many worked long hours in factories, mines, or as servants, often in difficult conditions. Pupils will compare these experiences with those of wealthier families and learn about the limited education and poor health that affected many working-class children. This will help them understand social inequality and the beginnings of social reform.

Key Learning



Impact of Trade on Poole and the British Empire

This lesson will focus on how trade via the Trade Triangle helped Poole's economy grow and supported the expansion of the British Empire. Children will explore both the positive impacts—such as wealth and new opportunities—and the negative effects, including exploitation and inequality. They will begin to think critically about how trade and empire shaped the lives of people in Poole and across the world.



Historical Skills and Reflection

Children will develop important historical enquiry skills by working with different types of sources, including maps, photographs, shipping records, and artefacts. They will learn to ask questions, analyse evidence, and draw conclusions about life in Victorian Poole and the wider impact of trade. The lesson will also give children the chance to present their findings in creative ways, helping them to consolidate and communicate what they have learned.

Through these lessons, Year 6 pupils will develop key disciplinary skills in history by using evidence to ask and answer questions about the past, make comparisons, and draw conclusions. They will build their chronological understanding by placing the Victorian era accurately within a wider historical context. Children will use sources such as images, artefacts, and written accounts to investigate how industrialisation and trade shaped people's lives. By comparing the experiences of different social groups and analysing how events and developments were interconnected—such as the impact of global trade on local communities—they will strengthen their ability to think critically, interpret evidence, and understand cause and consequence in history.



Thinking point

How can we use historical evidence—such as photographs, diary entries, or artefacts—to help us understand what life was really like in the Victorian era? Can different types of evidence tell us di… stories about the same period?



Power Skills

	Create maps, diagrams and visual representations to show Atlantic trade routes, the goods traded and how Poole's buildings reflect its trading history.
	Analyse historical sources, investigate Poole's role in Atlantic trade and evaluate how trade changed over time, including the impact of the transatlantic slave trade.
	Develop empathy, responsibility and ethical awareness when exploring the experiences of people involved in Atlantic trade, including those affected by enslavement.
	Work in groups to investigate historical evidence, discuss Poole's trading history and complete tasks to develop shared understanding.
	Explain the movement of goods across the Atlantic, describe how trade shaped Poole and communicate historical findings using evidence and appropriate historical vocabulary.