

Year 1 History Term 2: Victorian Christmas

Vocabulary and Language

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Victorian | The Victorians lived over one hundred and fifty years ago during the reign of Queen Victoria (1837 to 1901) |
| Festive | very merry and joyful. |
| Christmas | Christmas is celebrated on 25 December. It is a holiday to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, who, according to the Christian religion, is the son of God. |
| Past | of or relating to a time that has gone by. |
| Old | Existing for many years. |
| New | recently bought. |
| Before | Earlier than. |
| Future | Something that is going to happen. |
| Time | The past, present and future. |

How have Christmas traditions changed since Victorian times?



NEED TO KNOW

Christmas traditions today include giving and receiving gifts, decorating our houses with a tree and lights, writing to or visiting Father Christmas, sending cards.

Queen Victoria was Queen of England from 1837 – 1901. During her reign, many traditions of Christmas were introduced which we still use to day to celebrate Christmas.

Before Queen Victoria, nobody in Britain had heard of Father Christmas or Christmas crackers. No cards were sent and most people did not have holidays from work.

The first Christmas card was created in 1843.

The Christmas tree was introduced to England by Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert. Decorations were home made and include snowflakes, tinsel, candles and an angel on top of the tree.

The Christmas cracker was invented in 1848 by Tom Smith, they were created as a way to sell sweets.

Christmas puddings were home made.

In Victorian times most gifts were homemade so only the wealthy could afford them. In a poor child's stocking there would usually be an apple, an orange and a few nuts.