

<http://www.online-literature.com/periods/victorian.php>

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Major Events of the Victorian Era

So, Victorian literature is just literature written during the reign of **Queen Victoria** in Great Britain. My favorite British comedian, Eddie Izzard, refers to Queen Victoria as 'one of England's more frumpy queens.' You can take a look at her picture and decide for yourself. So, Queen Victoria reigned from 1837-1901. Currently her reign is the longest of any British monarch - 63 years and 7 months - but it looks like our girl, Queen Elizabeth II, is well-poised to steal that record.

Some major events that took place during the Victoria era include:

- A **huge growth in population**. During Victoria's reign, the population of England more than doubled, from 14 million to 32 million.
- There were also some significant **improvements in technology**. The Victorian era slightly overlaps with Britain's Industrial Revolution, which saw big changes to the way that people lived, worked, and traveled. These improvements in technology offered a lot of opportunities for the people in England but also represented a major upheaval in regards to how people lived their lives and interacted with the world. Those of us who were alive before the Internet should be able to relate. I mean, the Internet has made a lot of things easier, but it's also brought a lot of issues about personal privacy, how we communicate and the potential for terrible things, like identity theft.
- Another characteristic of the Victorian era are **changing world views**. In addition to the major developments in technology, there were emerging scientific beliefs, like Charles Darwin's theory of evolution, and those things were changing how people in England thought about themselves and how they interacted with the world around them. Most notably, a lot of people were distancing themselves from the church.
- And finally, there were **poor conditions for the working class**. The Industrial Revolution led to the distance between the haves and have-nots growing at a really high rate, and a lot of people (especially artists, like writers) felt obligated to speak out against what they believed to be societal injustices, which if you've followed any of the 'We are the 99%' movement, it might sound familiar to things that are happening right now.

<http://study.com/academy/lesson/introduction-to-victorian-literature-overview-of-themes-style-and-authors.html>