

## Week 2: Queen Victoria

### History

Can you imagine? You're 18 years old and are eagerly anticipating your future, when suddenly your uncle dies. That would be heart wrenching to be sure. But what you might not have expected was how much his death would utterly transform your future. In the blink of an eye you will go from being a lighthearted teenager to being called Your Royal Highness and crowned Queen of England! Yet, that is exactly what happened, on June 20, 1837, to a beautiful young lady named Victoria.

It was evident, what with Uncle William (King William IV that is) being 73 years old and having no heir apparent, that it would be only a matter of time before the princess would rule the British Empire. But still, one can never be adequately prepared for something so momentous, let alone an 18 year old girl.



***Queen Victoria in her Robe of State or Parliament Robe. Her crimson velvet robe is lined with white ermine fur, and trimmed with gold lace***

And inadequately prepared was exactly what she was. Up until that point Victoria had lived a very sheltered life. It was kind Lord Melbourne, her first prime minister, who would in fact teach her the essentials of politics, government, protocol, and how to

royally govern. And royally govern she did! She would prove herself to be one of Great Britain's wisest, most capable, and most beloved monarchs. She would even be named Empress of India, and it would be under Victoria's reign that Great Britain would reach the height of its power.

- Television was not around in 1837 when Victoria was crowned Queen, but it was in 1951 when her great-great-granddaughter and current Queen Elizabeth II was crowned. Her coronation was the first ever televised. To get a feel for what it must have been like for Princess Victoria to be crowned Queen of England, watch [Queen Elizabeth's coronation](#). Listen carefully to see if you hear Great Britain's national anthem.

### **History**

Over the course of this unit study you will be learning about a variety of interesting people and events. A timeline can help you connect those people and events with others and help you *see* history unfold.

- Today you will compile a simple timeline notebook using a 3-ring binder and these [timeline sheets](#). You will want to print several sets to serve you for a number of centuries.
- Find out when Victoria was born and when she died. Determine how many years she lived. Place the years she lived on your timeline along with the date she was crowned queen, and identify the Victorian Age (1837-1901).
- Continue to add people and events to your timeline throughout this study and as you go on to discover other time periods. It will help you better visualize history.

### **History/Fashion/Art Appreciation**

With so many exciting breakthroughs happening at the time of Queen Victoria's reign, an entire time period was named after her. It is called the Victorian Age.

Science, technology, and the arts were booming. Canals, railroads, and telegraph and telephone wires crisscrossed Great Britain. Commerce flourished as a result. The Industrial Revolution was at full throttle. For the well-to-do it was an opulent and glorious time. Victorian fashion, furniture, and architecture were the craze. The middle and upper classes throughout Great Britain, her territories, and America were clamoring for all the trendy new styles.

- Look up examples of men's and women's Victorian [fashion](#), [furniture](#), and [architecture](#). Download some pictures and glue them onto your timeline.



***The Bunch of Lilacs*, by French artist James Tissot, shows a fine example of a Victorian day-dress.**

- Younger girls may enjoy coloring [Queen Victoria](#) or some fashionable [Victorian ladies](#).

**Did you know?**

Famous American naturalist and artist John James Audubon (1785-1851) published his fourth and final volume of *The Birds of America* the very same year Queen Victoria took the throne.

- Place John James Audubon on your timeline.