

QUEEN VICTORIA



BIOGRAPHY

QUEEN VICTORIA

Victoria was born on the 24th May 1819 and was the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland from 20th June 1837 until she died in 1901.

Victoria was the daughter of Prince Edward, Duke of Kent and Strathearn, and German Princess Victoria of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld. Her birth name was Alexandrina but she changed it when she became Queen. She was fifth in line to the throne when she was born. Her father died when she was just 1 year old, and a week later her grandfather died too. Then when she was 8 years old her uncle, George IV died which meant her other uncle, William IV, became the King. This left Victoria as next in line to the throne.

When she was a child she spent a lot of time on her own and did not see other children much. She often played with her dolls and her dog called Dash. Growing up she learnt French, German, Italian and Latin.

In 1837, William IV died so Victoria became the Queen when she was eighteen years old. One of the first things she did as Queen was pay off her father's debts, which made people like her and trust the monarchy a little more. Victoria did not know much about how to rule a country as she was young, but she made friends with the Prime Minister, Lord Melbourne, who gave her advice on political issues.

On the 10th February 1840, Victoria married Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. Less than a year later she became pregnant with their first child. While she was pregnant a man called Edward Oxford attempted to kill her, but failed. Their daughter, Victoria, was born a few months later. Victoria famously did not enjoy being pregnant, but over the next seventeen years, she went on to have another 8 children. Her childhood governess, Baroness Louise Lehzen, helped Victoria raise the children.

Over the years that Victoria was Queen (known as the Victorian era) many things changed in Great Britain. Events included building railroads and building the Great Exhibition. This was an exhibition which showed many interesting objects and inventions such as diamonds and a telescope. Victoria also had to face some major tragedies including the Irish potato famine from 1845 to 1849.

Albert died on the 14th December 1861. Victoria was very sad when this happened and some people wondered whether she could still be a good queen. However, she did recover and went on to become Empress of India. She was given this title so Great Britain could have a better relationship with India.

Queen Victoria died on the 22nd January 1901. When she died she had 37 grandchildren.