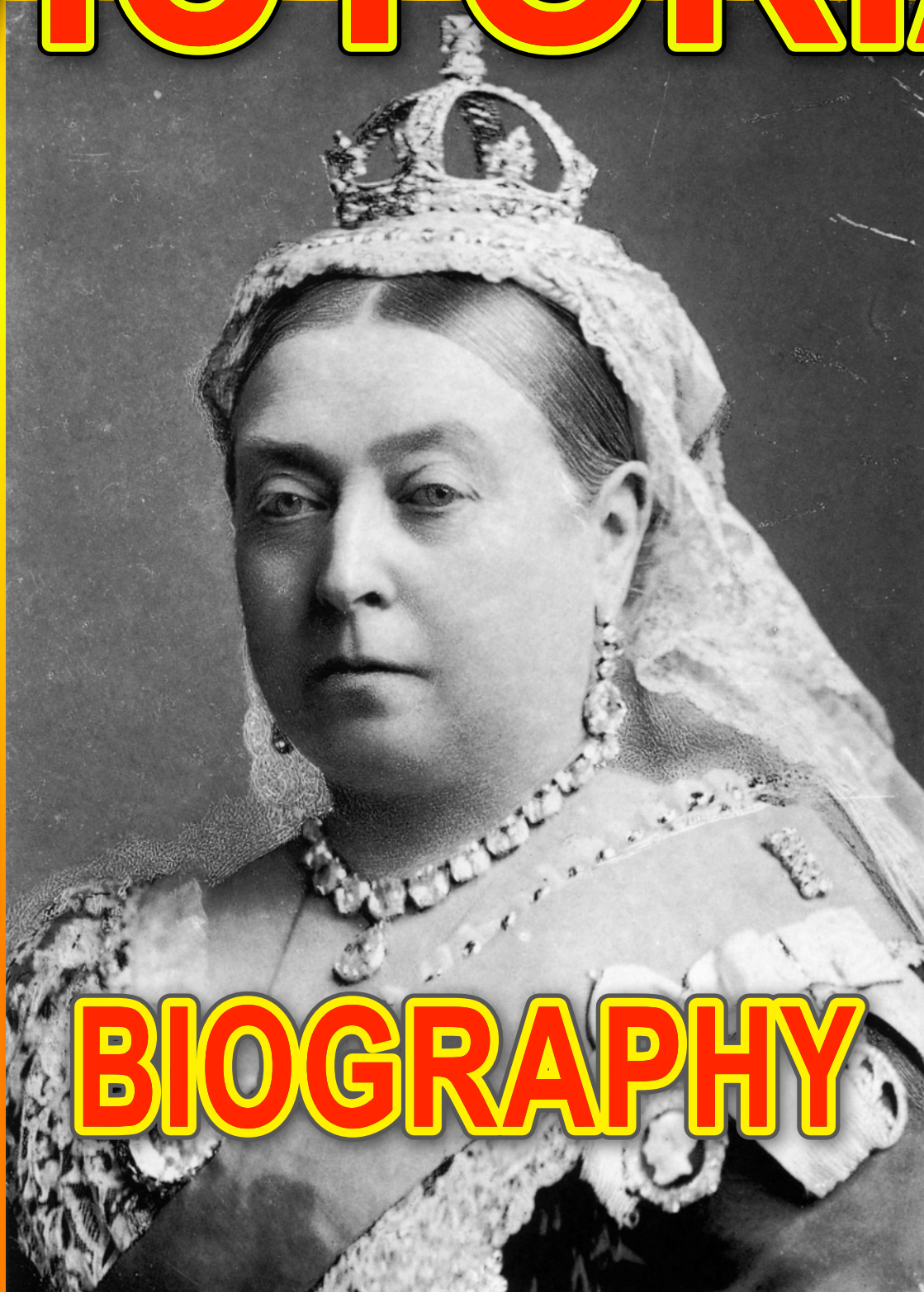


# QUEEN VICTORIA



## BIOGRAPHY

# QUEEN VICTORIA

Queen Victoria (Alexandrina Victoria) was born on the 24th May 1819, and died on the 22nd January 1901. She was Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland from 20th June 1837 until she died. She reigned for nearly 64 years, making her one of Britain's longest-reigning monarchs. The time she reigned for is known as the Victorian era. She was the last British monarch of the House of Hanover (started by George I). She named herself Empress of India from 1st May 1876, and was monarch over one of the world's largest ever empires.

Victoria was the daughter of Prince Edward, Duke of Kent and Strathearn, the fourth son of King George III. It was not expected that she would become queen, but after her father and brothers died, she inherited the throne at the age of 18.

In 1840, Victoria married her first cousin, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. Her wedding featured a white dress and a layered wedding cake. It was the start of traditions that still go on today. Victoria and Albert had nine children, all of whom married into royal and noble families across Europe. The idea was, as it had always been, to intermarry across countries and so influence the future of Europe. That is also why she was called "the grandmother of Europe".

During her life as queen, Victoria faced eight attempts on her life. One was in 1840, when a teenager fired at her while she was driving her carriage near Buckingham Palace.

Victoria lost her husband in 1861, and it affected her deeply. She mourned for a long time, and kept away from public life, but began to be seen again by the time of her Golden and Diamond Jubilees.

Her reign oversaw much invention and industry, as well as great civil engineering projects, many of which are still used today. Under the influence of figures like Isambard Kingdom Brunel, the railway network rapidly expanded across Britain, bringing great social change. Writers like Charles Dickens also flourished, and brought about changes that improved the lives of poor people, especially children.

The Victoria Cross was introduced in 1856 to reward acts of extreme bravery during the Crimean War.

# Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'inherited'.

b From that sentence, suggest what 'inherited' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word 'inherited'.

d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'inherited'.

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'inherited' means.

Try this for other words, too. 

# Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

| Key word         | Synonym (similar word) |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Example: mourned | grieved                |
|                  |                        |
|                  |                        |
|                  |                        |
|                  |                        |
|                  |                        |
|                  |                        |
|                  |                        |
|                  |                        |
|                  |                        |
|                  |                        |
|                  |                        |
|                  |                        |
|                  |                        |

# Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.

But Victoria later returned to public life.

After Albert died in 1861, Victoria mourned for a long time.

Victoria was born in 1819, and was not expected to become queen.

By the time she died in 1901, Victoria had reigned for 64 years.

Later that year, Victoria escaped an assassination attempt near Buckingham Palace.

In 1840, Victoria married her cousin, Prince Albert.

But after her father and brothers died, Victoria took to the throne.

# Get to the facts

1 How long did Queen Victoria reign for?

2 How old was Victoria when she inherited the throne?

3 Who did Victoria marry?

4 When did Albert die?

5 Who helped expand the railway network?

# Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.

## Queen Victoria returns

February 1871. Dear diary, today I went to Buckingham Palace to see Queen Victoria. She has been away from public life for years. But there she was, on the balcony... (now complete the story)

**Below is a plain text version for printing:**

## Understanding words:

- a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'inherited'.
- b From that sentence, suggest what 'inherited' means.
- c Write a new sentence using the word 'inherited'.
- d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'inherited'.
- e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'inherited' means.

## Finding key words:

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym).

For example:

Key word – mourned                      Synonym – grieved

## Sequencing:

Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense:

But Victoria later returned to public life.

After Albert died in 1861, Victoria mourned for a long time.

Victoria was born in 1819, and was not expected to become queen.

By the time she died in 1901, Victoria had reigned for 64 years.

Later that year, Victoria escaped an assassination attempt near Buckingham Palace.

In 1840, Victoria married her cousin, Prince Albert.

But after her father and brothers died, Victoria took to the throne.

## **Get to the facts:**

- 1 How long did Queen Victoria reign for?
- 2 How old was Victoria when she inherited the throne?
- 3 Who did Victoria marry?
- 4 When did Albert die?
- 5 Who helped expand the railway network?

## **Make a story...**

### **Queen Victoria returns**

February 1871. Dear diary, today I went to Buckingham Palace to see Queen Victoria. She has been away from public life for years. But there she was, on the balcony... (now complete the story)

# Queen Victoria

Queen Victoria (Alexandrina Victoria) was born on the 24th May 1819, and died on the 22nd January 1901. She was Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland from 20th June 1837 until she died. She reigned for nearly 64 years, making her one of Britain's longest-reigning monarchs. The time she reigned for is known as the Victorian era. She was the last British monarch of the House of Hanover (started by George I). She named herself Empress of India from 1st May 1876, and was monarch over one of the world's largest ever empires.

Victoria was the daughter of Prince Edward, Duke of Kent and Strathearn, the fourth son of King George III. It was not expected that she would become queen, but after her father and brothers died, she inherited the throne at the age of 18.

In 1840, Victoria married her first cousin, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. Her wedding featured a white dress and a layered wedding cake. It was the start of traditions that still go on today. Victoria and Albert had nine children, all of whom married into royal and noble families across Europe. The idea was, as it had always been, to intermarry across countries and so influence the future of Europe. That is also why she was called "the grandmother of Europe".

During her life as queen, Victoria faced eight attempts on her life. One was in 1840, when a teenager fired at her while she was driving her carriage near Buckingham Palace.

Victoria lost her husband in 1861, and it affected her deeply. She mourned for a long time, and kept away from public life, but began to be seen again by the time of her Golden and Diamond Jubilees.

Her reign oversaw much invention and industry, as well as great civil engineering projects, many of which are still used today. Under the influence of figures like Isambard Kingdom Brunel, the railway network rapidly expanded across Britain, bringing great social change. Writers like Charles Dickens also flourished, and brought about changes that improved the lives of poor people, especially children.

The Victoria Cross was introduced in 1856 to reward acts of extreme bravery during the Crimean War.