Key Vocabulary	
industry	A group of companies that all produce the same thing.
invention	A new thing that someone had created or made
rural	The countryside
revolution	A big change in something
workhouse	Places set up by the government where poor people with no money could go and be given a bed, food, and work. Many had very harsh rules.
laws	the system of rules which a particular country or community recognizes as regulating the actions of its members and which it may enforce by the imposition of penalties
bias	inclination or prejudice for or against one person or group, especially in a way considered to be unfair
exaggerated	regarded or represented as larger, better, or worse than in reality

Queen Victoria

Queen Victoria was born in 1819 at Kensington Palace in London. Her Uncle was King William IV, who had no children of his own, so the crown passed to Victoria when he died. She was 18 when she inherited the throne in 1837. Victoria is described as strong, honest, and stubborn. She was the first monarch to live at Buckingham Palace. She reigned for 64 years until her death in 1901, making her the second longest reigning monarch after our current Queen, Queen Elizabeth II.

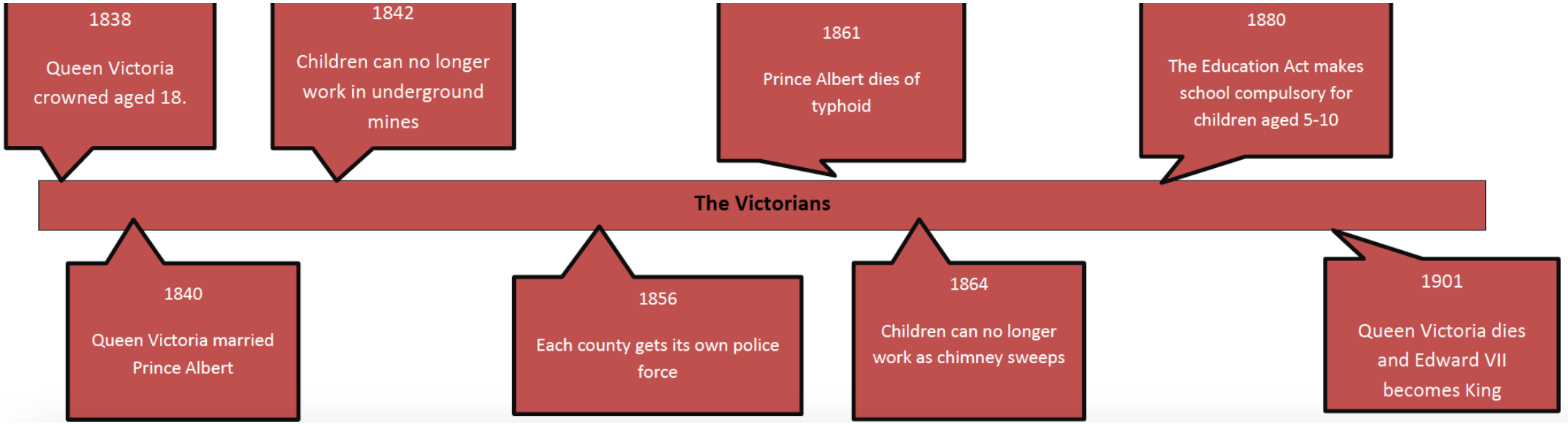


Working children

In most poor families the children would also work. Many would work in factories or mines. Children were often given the jobs that their small bodies were useful for, such as clambering under the heavy machinery of the factories to collect dropped cotton or operating the trap door of the mines – _these were very dangerous jobs.

Working Conditions:

- Children worked very long hours with little breaks and no fresh air
- They often worked in very dangerous conditions resulting in injuries or death
- Very young children were expected to work
- At the start of Victoria's reign there was no education for the poor, so it was unlikely they could get better paid jobs when they were older
- Children were paid very little because they were younger



School

At the start of the Victoria's reign only wealthy children went to school or had tutors, because education was not free.
In 1880 a law was passed making it compulsory for every child in Britain between the ages of 5 and 10 to attend school. Lots of new schools were opened in Victorian times, but they were very different from the schools of today.
In Victorian schools, during the afternoons, the girls and boys did different lessons. The boys were taught lessons such as woodworking. The girls were taught how to cook meals, how to do embroidery and how to complete housework (such as washing and ironing)

Lord Shaftsbury

Anthony Ashley Cooper, the eldest son of the 6th Earl of Shaftesbury, was born on 28th April 1801. He became the Earl of Shaftesbury in 1851.
At the age of 25 he became a member of parliament, and he began to take an interest in the plight of poor children after reading newspaper reports about labour in industry.
1833 he proposed that children should work for a maximum of 10 hours a day.
1834 The Factory Act became law. It was now illegal for children under 9 to be employed by textile factories.
1842 The Coal Mines Act. No child or woman should work underground.
He was also interested in education for working children. He was chairman of Ragged Schools Union – _an organization that set up over 100 schools for poor children.

