

Module 7: Balancing the Individual and Society
Topic 1 Content: Historical Connections – The Victorian Period

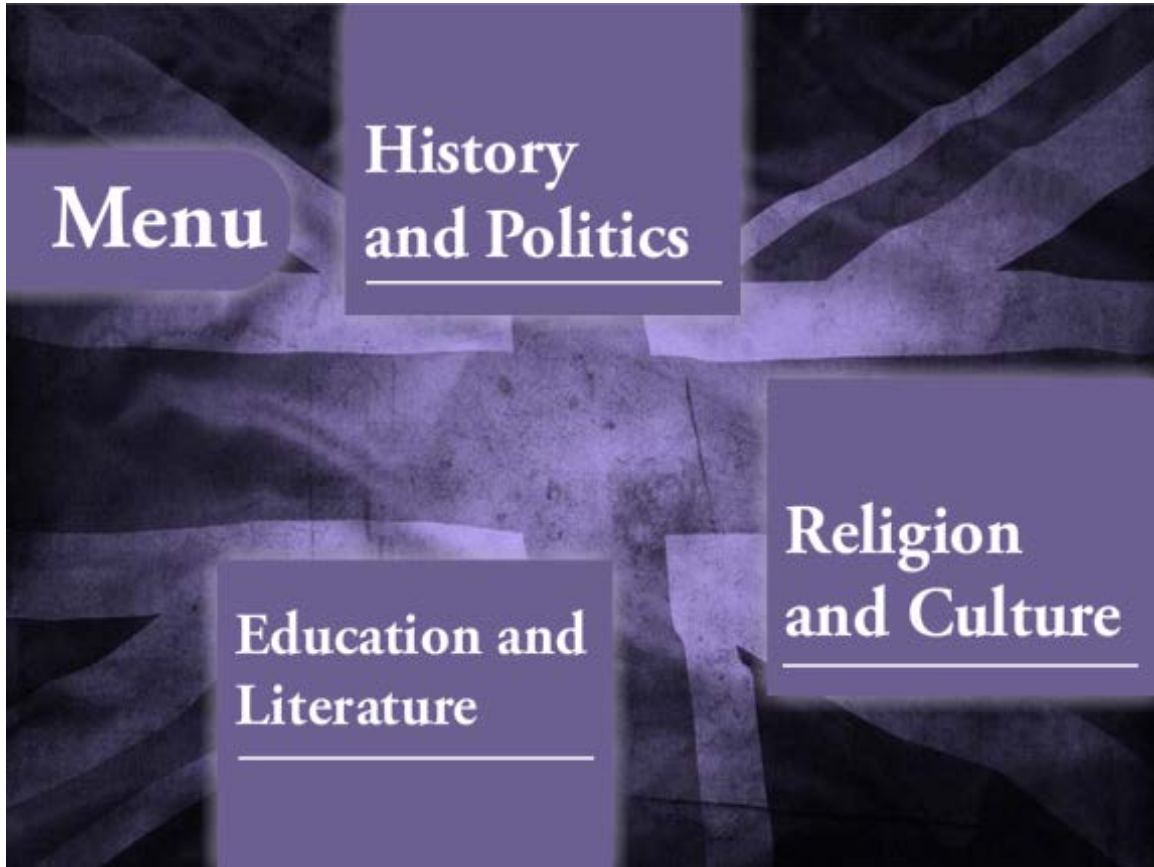
Introduction



Historical Connections to the Victorian Period

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Main Menu



The Victorian period in Britain was a contradiction of progress and decline at the height of the British Empire. While social reform and advances in science and industry brought optimism for progress, challenges to traditional religious thought and the high cost of warfare across the globe eventually gave way to a mood of pessimism at the turn of the 20th century. Learn more about this period by exploring the history and politics, religion and culture, and education and literature. Click on each of the menu items.

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Important Events of the Victorian Period

The image shows a digital interface for a timeline. At the top left is a 'Home' button with a house icon. The main title is 'Important Events of the Victorian Period' in a large, white, serif font. Below the title is a horizontal timeline with seven circular markers. Under each marker is a year followed by 'A.D.'. Below the timeline is a text prompt: 'Click on each of the events in the timeline to learn more about the history and politics of the Victorian period.'

Year	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year
1833	1837	1842	1845	1854	1858	1901
A.D.	A.D.	A.D.	A.D.	A.D.	A.D.	A.D.

Click on each of the events in the timeline to learn more about the history and politics of the Victorian period.

Click on each of the events in the timeline to learn more about the history and politics of the Romantic period. Once you have viewed each of the events, click the home button to return to the main menu.

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1833 A.D.

The image shows a digital interface for a historical timeline. At the top left is a 'Home' button with a house icon. The main title is 'Important Events of the Victorian Period' in a large, white, serif font. Below the title is a text box with a close button (X) in the top right corner. The text box contains the following text: 'Although slavery had been abolished in Britain, it was still legal in Britain's colonies at the turn of the Victorian period. In 1833, slavery was finally abolished across the British empire.' Below the text box is a horizontal timeline with seven circular markers. The first marker is filled with white, while the others are empty. Below each marker is a year and 'A.D.': 1833 A.D., 1837 A.D., 1842 A.D., 1845 A.D., 1854 A.D., 1858 A.D., and 1901 A.D. At the bottom of the timeline area, there is a prompt: 'Click on each of the events in the timeline to learn more about the history and politics of the Victorian period.'

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1837 A.D.

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Home

Important Events of the Victorian Period

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1833 A.D. 1837 A.D. 1842 A.D. 1845 A.D. 1854 A.D. 1858 A.D. 1901 A.D.

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1842 A.D.

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1845 A.D.

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1858 A.D.

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1901 A.D.

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Artifacts



Drag and drop each of the cultural artifacts into the examination tray to learn more about the religion and culture of the Victorian period. Once you have examined each of the artifacts, click the home button to return to the main menu.

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Telescope



Artifacts

Home

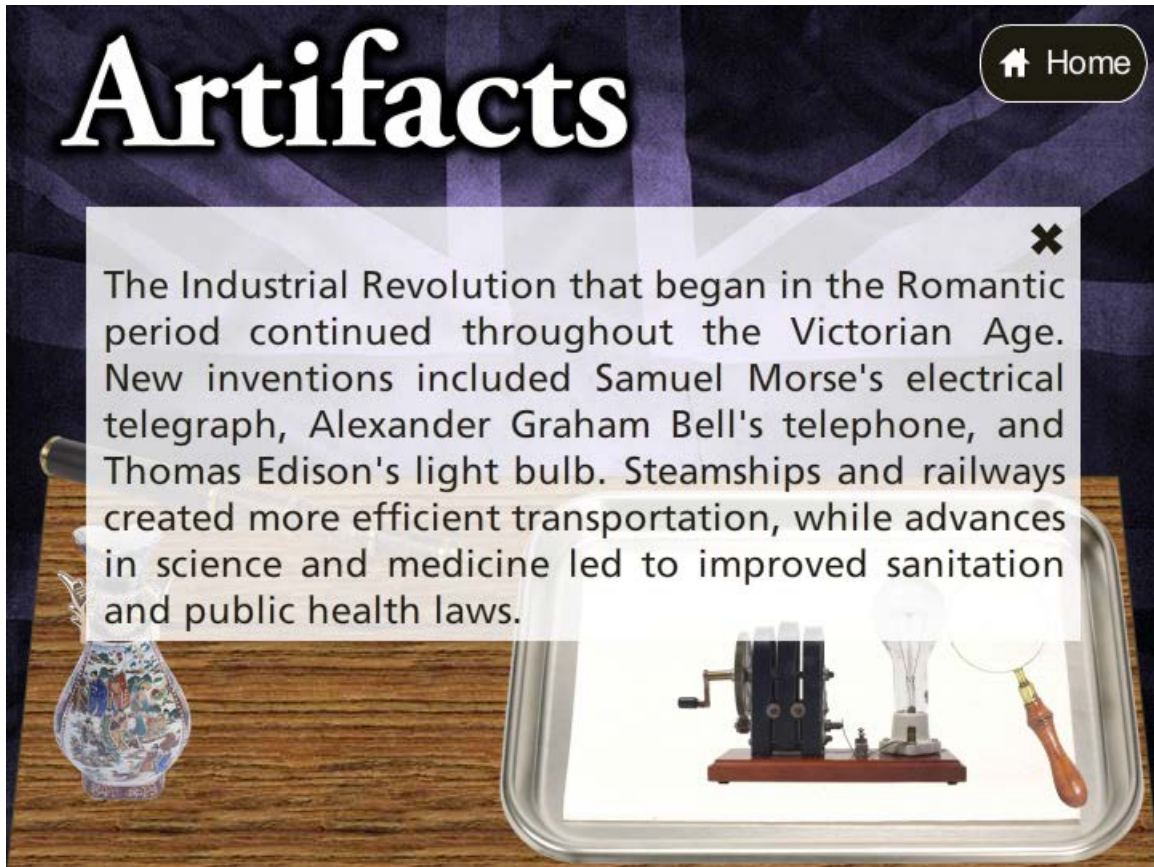
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Spyglasses, or small telescopes, became useful tools for British explorers as they expanded the British Empire across Africa, the Americas, and Asia. At its height, the British Empire claimed over forty percent of Earth's land. During the Victorian era, it was said that the sun never set on the British Empire.

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Light Bulb



The Industrial Revolution that began in the Romantic period continued throughout the Victorian Age. New inventions included Samuel Morse's electrical telegraph, Alexander Graham Bell's telephone, and Thomas Edison's light bulb. Steamships and railways created more efficient transportation, while advances in science and medicine led to improved sanitation and public health laws.

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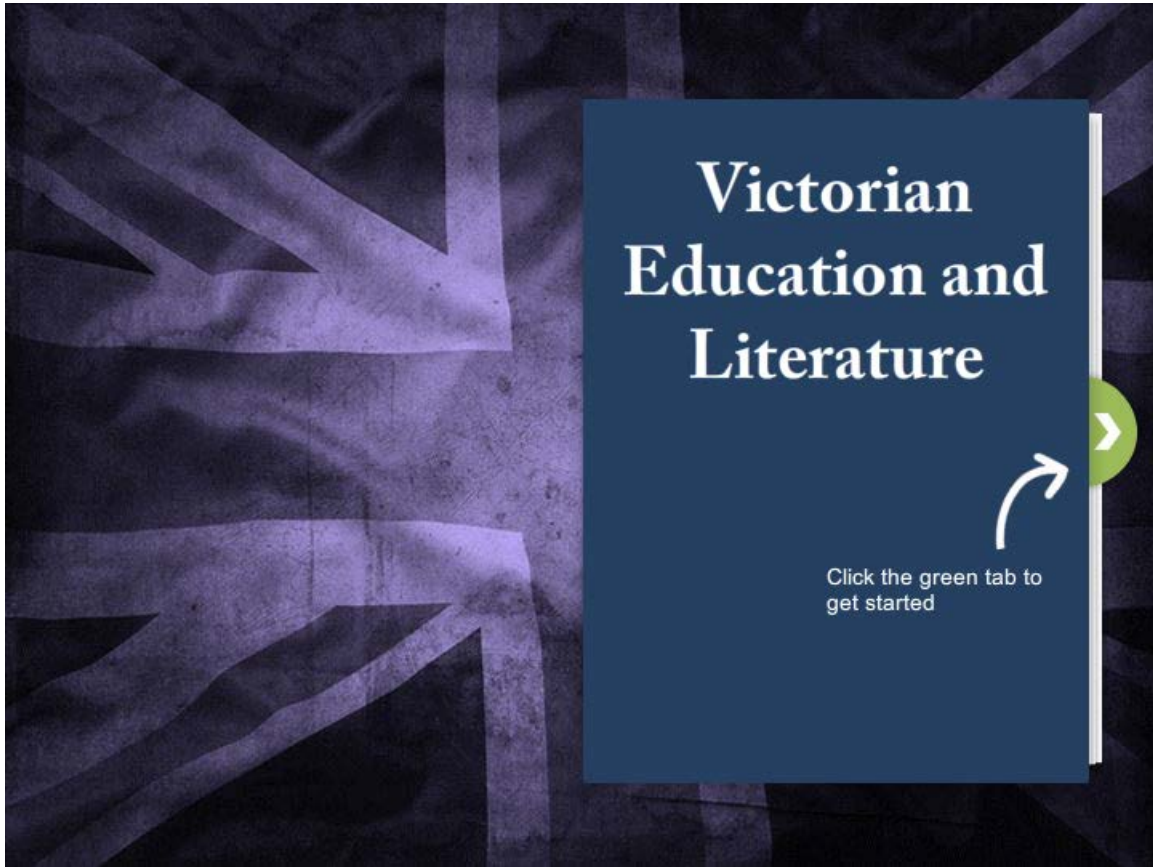
Porcelain



The Crystal Palace, a huge building made of iron and glass, was constructed for Britain's Great Exhibition of 1851. Resembling a large greenhouse, the Crystal Palace was a type of museum that showcased cultural artifacts from around the world, such as porcelain, musical instruments, stained glass, and heavy machinery. The 100,000 objects spanned a remarkable display of ten miles.

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Education and Literature

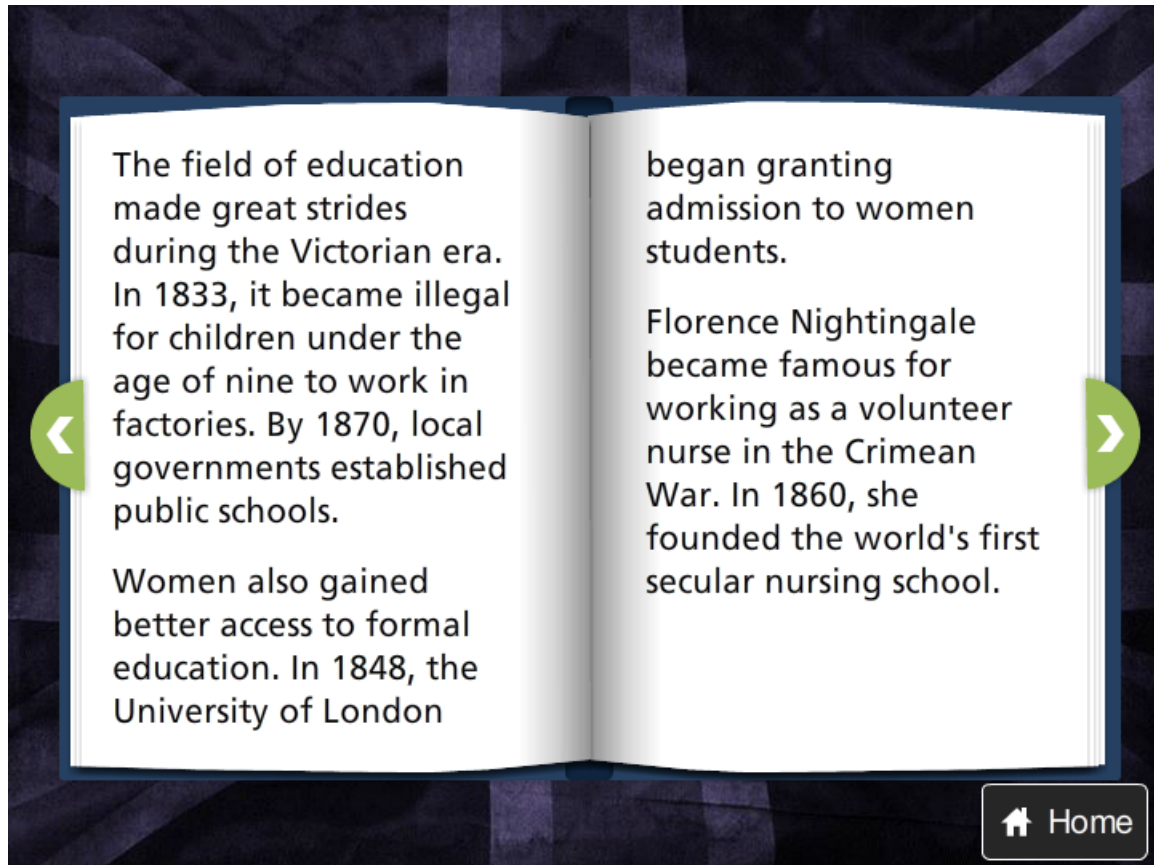


Click the green tabs to move through the book and learn more about education and literature during the Victorian period. Once you have completed the book, click the home button to return to the main menu.

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Education



The field of education made great strides during the Victorian era. In 1833, it became illegal for children under the age of nine to work in factories. By 1870, local governments established public schools.

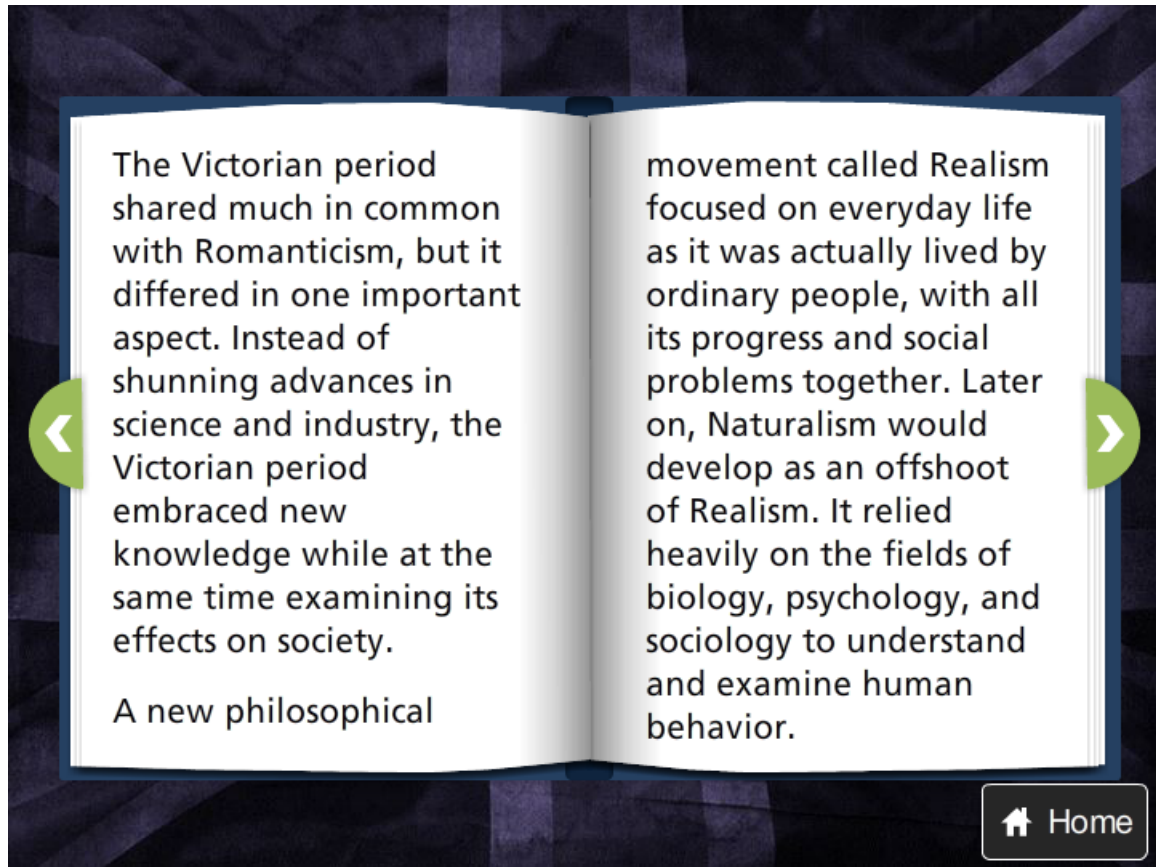
Women also gained better access to formal education. In 1848, the University of London began granting admission to women students.

Florence Nightingale became famous for working as a volunteer nurse in the Crimean War. In 1860, she founded the world's first secular nursing school.

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Philosophy



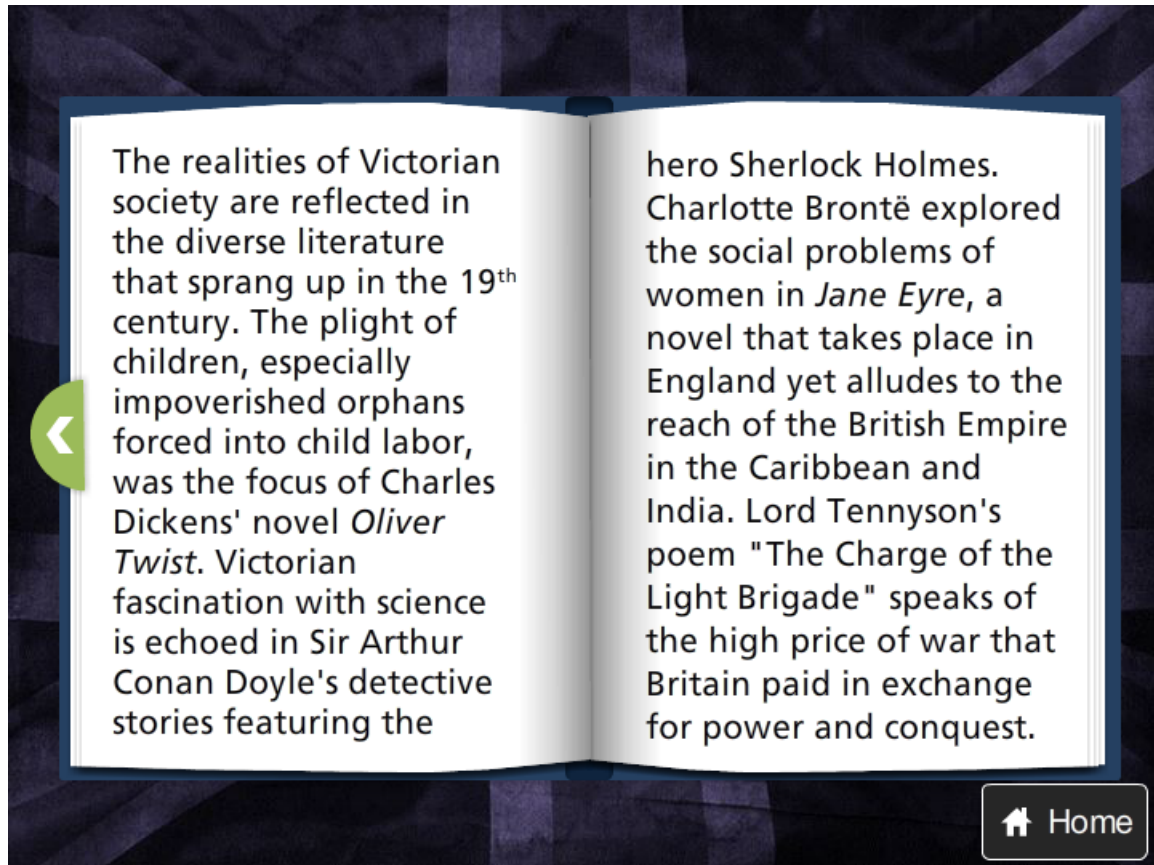
The Victorian period shared much in common with Romanticism, but it differed in one important aspect. Instead of shunning advances in science and industry, the Victorian period embraced new knowledge while at the same time examining its effects on society.

A new philosophical movement called Realism focused on everyday life as it was actually lived by ordinary people, with all its progress and social problems together. Later on, Naturalism would develop as an offshoot of Realism. It relied heavily on the fields of biology, psychology, and sociology to understand and examine human behavior.

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Literature



The realities of Victorian society are reflected in the diverse literature that sprang up in the 19th century. The plight of children, especially impoverished orphans forced into child labor, was the focus of Charles Dickens' novel *Oliver Twist*. Victorian fascination with science is echoed in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's detective stories featuring the hero Sherlock Holmes. Charlotte Brontë explored the social problems of women in *Jane Eyre*, a novel that takes place in England yet alludes to the reach of the British Empire in the Caribbean and India. Lord Tennyson's poem "The Charge of the Light Brigade" speaks of the high price of war that Britain paid in exchange for power and conquest.