

Victorian Europe Research Project

With your group, choose one of the main topics below. Utilizing books, articles, and credible online sources, conduct research on your main topic and subtopics. Develop a method for presenting this information to your peers: this could be through a Power Point, a Prezi, a webpage, a web quest, etc. Next, create an activity for the class to do using your topic/information. You could have us complete a worksheet, an art project, a music piece, a crossword puzzle, etc. Be creative, but remember that the activity needs to be rigorous and relevant—a simple find-a-word puzzle will not be sufficient to assess our knowledge of the information you have presented. Finally, please remember to cite all of your sources using proper MLA citation (see MLA Tip Sheet or visit the Purdue Online Writing Lab).

Topics for Research: Victorian England

Women/"Angel of the House"

- Role(s) in the home
- Education
- Societal expectations
- Property laws/women's rights

Women who were not "angels of the house"/Prostitution/Jack the Ripper

- Contagious Diseases Acts
- Laws concerning prostitution
- Who was at-fault according to the law/according to writers
- Christina Rossetti "The Goblin Market"
- Ripper murders: effect on women, on middle-classes; effect on propaganda
- Dangers associated with servant class and governesses (moved fluidly from low-class to middle-class homes/viewed as contaminants in the middle-class/upper-class home-- Mayhew research)

Child Labor

- Factory Acts
- Elizabeth Barrett Browning "The Cry of the Children"
- William Blake "Songs of Innocence and of Experience"

Industrialization

Common literary motifs/themes

Christmas

- Foods
- Decorations
- Games/Entertainment
- Music

Social Decorum

- Calling cards
- Outings/Courting/Chaperones
- Manner of addressing others within/without same social class

Typical household

Fashion: Men and Women

- Emergence of Mercantilism
- Specific fashions for men/women/children
- Importance of societal dress codes

Colonization

- Britain's expanding empire
- Proper society's view of the "natives" (anyone not born/reared in Europe-proper)
- taming and Christianizing the natives (*Jane Eyre* good literary resource for this)
- Africa (*Heart of Darkness* a good literary resource for this)
- Middle Eastern territories
- Eastern Europe

"The Irish Question"

- Travel to and from the Emerald Isle
- Treatment of Irish natives by other Europeans
- Conflict between Northern/Southern Ireland/Britain

Entertainment

- Music
- Theatre
- Dance
- Public reading

Publishing industry

- Evolution of print
- Publishing recommendations/requirements (how did an author get published)
- Female writers during the Victorian Age

Religion

- Particularly Christianity
- Catholicism vs. Protestantism
- Good vs. Evil

Politics of the time

Influence of Literature on Social Issues (Child Labor/Women's Rights)

Rubric:

Presentation (100 pts)

Information is clear and correct _____/50

Information is presented in a medium that is relevant and clear _____/30

All group members participate in the presentation and appear to be “experts” on the knowledge _____/20

Activity (100)

Activity is presented with clear instructions _____/40

Activity is relevant to the information presented _____/40

Activity is rigorous and relevant, adequately assessing knowledge of the topic(s) presented _____/20