Year 5

(Entry into Year 6)

5 Hour Revision Course

History

NORD
ANGLIA
EDUCATION

History

5 Hours

Activity 1 (1 Hour)

Life in Victorian Britain

In this activity you will be studying life in Victorian Britain. Different people, in different countries, and at different times, have had very different expectations of how they should live. While today, in most countries, young people are expected to be able to play, go to school, and be kept safe, in the past many children were expected to work. This was often because their families could not afford to feed them if they did not. In some countries today, children still have to work to ensure they have enough money and food to live.

In the Victorian era, many children still had to work in jobs that were hard and dangerous, such as working in coal mines. Many young boys were expected to work as chimney sweepers, as grown-ups were too large to fit up the chimneys to clean them. The soot, smoke, and dirt did great harm to them, and many became ill, and died very young.

The following poem extract (not all of the poem has been included) was written at a time when many children were still working in chimneys all around Britain, not long before the beginning of the Victorian Age. Please read the following poem carefully.

The Chimney Sweeper (Extract)

When my mother died I was very young,
And my father sold me while yet my tongue
Could scarcely cry 'weep! 'weep! 'weep! 'weep!
So your chimneys I sweep, and in soot I sleep.

There's little Tom Dacre, who cried when his head,
That curled like a lamb's back, was shaved: so I said,
'Hush, Tom! never mind it, for when your head's bare,
You know that the soot cannot spoil your white hair.'

And so he was quiet; and that very night,
As Tom was a-sleeping, he had such a sight, -
That thousands of sweepers, Dick, Joe, Ned, and Jack,
Were all of them locked up in coffins of black.

- William Blake

A scientist who studied the health of boys who worked in chimneys wrote the following:

> The fate of these people seems peculiarly hard...they are treated with great brutality.. they are thrust up narrow and sometimes hot chimnies,(sic) where they are bruised burned and almost suffocated
>
> - Sir Percival Pott

Why Victorian?

Some parts of Britain's history are named after the King or Queen who ruled the country at the time. The Elizabethan Era is named after Queen Elizabeth the First, while the Georgian era was named after several Kings, all called George: George I, George II, George III, and George IV.

Similarly, the Victorian age is named after the Queen who ruled Britain, and its large empire throughout the world: Queen Victoria.

Today, most children living in Britain, Europe, do not have work.

What reasons are set out on the previous page for why Children did work during the Victorian age? Give at least two reasons, and remember to give examples from the work you have read:

Some people might say that it is better for children to work, than to starve. Do you agree with this? Give reasons for your answer:

Describe some of the problems that chimney sweepers faced. Remember to link you answer to what you have read, and to give reasons for your answers:

The poem 'The Chimney Sweeper' was written by William Blake, a man who thought that children should not be made to sweep chimneys. Why do you think he wrote the poem?

Describe some of the problems that chimney sweepers faced. Remember to link you answer to what you have read, and to give reasons for your answers:

Imagine that you are a chimney sweeper, working every day in a small, cramped, smoky space, surrounded by darkness and soot. Make your writing as descriptive as possible. You should remember all the things you have read, but write in your own words:

Activity 2 (1 Hour)

War in the Crimea

From 1852 to February 1856 France, the British Empire, the Ottoman Empire, and the Kingdom of Sardinia fought with the Russian Empire for control of the Crimean Peninsula. The war arose from disagreements over access to Jerusalem, though soon became a major conflict between a range of significant military powers. Fighting through bitterly cold winters, and exposed to modern weapons and military technology for the first time, thousands of soldiers on all sides died in the conflict.

One famous figure who emerged from the history of this war was Florence Nightingale, who developed new nursing techniques to look after injured British soldiers:

This child, Florence Nightingale, of whom the foregoing story is told, was born in Florence, Italy, in 1820. Her parents were English, and her early years were given to the studies which a girl fortunately situated would follow. She was taught in science and mathematics as well as in the fluent use of French, German and Italian.

But from the day the little girl nursed the leg of the shepherd's dog, it became the custom of the neighbourhood where she lived to send for her when anyone had a cut or bruise or sick animal. 'During her girlhood,' says the lady who has written her life, 'she was chief almoner to the cottages around her home, and nursed all illnesses under the advice of her mother and the vicar.' Her favourite books were those that taught of helpfulness to the suffering and miserable, and it seemed as if her whole nature was turning toward her great work. While still a young girl she became interested in what Elizabeth Fry had done in English prisons, and she paid an interested visit to Mrs. Fry.

When in London she would visit hospitals and kindred institutions, and it is said that in the family travels in Egypt she nursed to health several sick Arabs. Her tastes and time, it is evident, were turned toward a humane and benevolent rather than a social life. Thus passed the years of her younger womanhood.

She had withdrawn from gaieties to learn whatever she could of the hospitals of London, Edinburgh and Dublin, and indeed, of the civil and military hospitals of all Europe, and finally in 1851, she went into training as a nurse in a famous institution at Kaiserwerth on the Rhine. Here, when she had taken the course of instruction, she passed a distinguished examination. After a short period of further study in Paris she returned to her beautiful English home for rest. But at this time a hospital and home in London for sick and aged governesses was about to fail from lack of means and lack of able direction. To this Miss Nightingale gave herself with ardour, and so renewed its strength that it still remains a witness to her energy. She gave largely to this institution. Nevertheless she was to be found, says a visitor, 'organising the nurses, attending to the correspondence, prescriptions and accounts; in short, performing all the duties of a hard-working matron.'

Ten years she had been serving apprenticeship for the great work of her life, and now she was thirty-four years old. In 1854 a war broke out between England and Russia. It is known as the Crimean War. England sent her soldiers to the Black Sea in many thousands. These soldiers were sadly clad and fed. Bad management seems to have prevailed, and the service for carrying supplies was inadequate. Warm clothing, blankets, tents and other protection failed to reach the troops. 'What a mockery,' says one writer, 'it must have seemed to the poor fellows, who with scanty rations and in threadbare and tattered clothes, were enduring the most cruel fatigues aggravated by wind and rain and snow and cold upon the bleak heights of the Tauric Chersonese,' to hear comforts had been sent them. 'When men of courageous mould have been seen 'to weep,' as on night after night, succeeding days of starvation and toil, they were ordered to their work in freezing trenches, who can estimate the exhausting misery they had at first endured?'

'It is now pouring rain,' wrote another who was there, 'the skies are black as ink—the wind is howling over the staggering tents—the trenches are turned into dykes—in the tents the water is sometimes a foot deep—our men have not either warm or waterproof clothing—they are out for twelve hours at a time in the [273]trenches—they are plunged into the inevitable miseries of a winter campaign—and not a soul seems to care for their comfort, or even for their lives. The wretched beggar who wanders about the streets of London in the rain, leads the life of a prince, compared with the British soldiers who are fighting out here for their country.

'The commonest accessories of a hospital are wanting; there is not the least attention paid to decency or cleanliness; the fetid air can barely struggle out to taint the atmosphere, save through the chinks in the walls and roofs, and, for all I can observe, these men die without the least effort being made to save them. There they lie, just as they were let gently down on the ground by the poor fellows, their comrades, who brought them on their backs from the camp with the greatest tenderness, but who are not allowed to remain with them. The sick appear to be tended by the sick, and the dying by the dying.'

During that winter of 1854, many were frozen in their tents. Of nearly forty-five thousand, over eighteen thousand were reported in the hospitals. The English people at last saw their disaster, and certain women volunteered services of helpfulness. The head of the War Department of the Government who knew of Miss Nightingale's interest in nursing, asked her to superintend and organise a staff of nurses. By a strange coincidence Florence Nightingale had written and offered her aid to the sick and wounded soldiers, and her letter passed the letter from the Government.

It was an undertaking wholly new to English habits—a band of devoted women going to soften the horrors of war and save lives the war had endeavoured to end. As the nurses landed at Boulogne in France, the poor fisherwomen seized and carried their baggage in token [274] of their admiration for the work they were starting out to do. And in their journey through France the innkeepers would not take pay for their lodgings and food. They sailed across the Mediterranean and in November, 1854, reached Scutari, a town in Turkey in Asia, opposite Constantinople.Four thousand sick and wounded soldiers lay in the hospitals awaiting their ministrations. And still others from a great battle were coming in. These hospitals were so filled that even in the corridors were two rows of mattresses and so close together that two persons could barely walk between the rows. The beds reeked with infection. There was no thought, seemingly, of sanitation. Rather than curers the hospitals were breeders of pestilence.

'The whole of yesterday one could only forget one's own existence,' wrote one of the nurses, 'for it was spent first in sewing the men's mattresses, and then in washing them, and assisting the surgeons, when we could, in dressing their ghastly wounds after their five days' confinement on board ship, during which space hundreds of wounds had not been dressed. Hundreds of men with fever, dysentery and cholera (the wounded were the smaller portion) filled the wards in succession from the overcrowded transports.' Such were the conditions this band of women found.

The head of the band, Miss Nightingale, began her work of organisation. She laboured with tireless energy and indomitable will. But not without opposition. The military and medical officials, says one who was there, 'were in the uttermost confusion among themselves, and they generally regarded these gentle missionaries as a new element of anarchy.'

[275]As soon as the wounded soldiers had had treatment, Miss Nightingale set in active operations a kitchen where food fit for the sick might be prepared. Many hundreds of the invalids could not eat of ordinary food without serious evil results. In this kitchen the nurses cooked nourishing delicacies for the poor fellows. The following is a little snapshot by one who was there: 'In the outer room we caught a glimpse of the justly celebrated Miss Nightingale, an amiable and highly intelligent-looking lady, delicate in form and prepossessing in appearance. Her energies were concentrated for the instant in the careful preparation of a dish of delectable food for an enfeebled patient—one of her homely ministrations to the wan victims of relentless war.'

After the kitchen the master—or mistress—mind planned a laundry where the clothing and beds of the sick men might be cleansed. Miss Nightingale, you see, merely organised and conducted housekeeping upon a giant scale. Then in addition she set on foot evening lectures for the men able to listen, and a library and a schoolroom.

Nevertheless she gave distinct and individual service. 'I believe,' wrote one, 'that there never was a severe case of any kind that escaped her notice; and sometimes it was wonderful to see her at the bedside of a patient who had been admitted perhaps but an hour before, and of whose arrival one would hardly have supposed it possible she could already be cognisant.'

'As her slender form glided quietly along each corridor every poor fellow's face softens with gratitude at the sight of her,' wrote another. 'When all the medical officers have retired for the night and silence and darkness have settled down on the miles of prostrate sick, she [276]may be observed alone with a little lamp in her hand making her solitary rounds. No one who has observed her fragile figure and delicate health can avoid misgivings lest these should fail. With the heart of a true woman and the manners of a lady she combines a surprising calmness of judgment and promptitude and decision of character.'

'To see her pass was happiness,' one poor fellow said. 'As she passed down the beds she would nod to one and smile at many more; but she could not do it to all, you know. We lay there by hundreds; but we could kiss her shadow as it fell, and lay our heads upon the pillows again, content.'

'Every fresh detachment of the wounded meant fresh work for the band of devoted women. Miss Nightingale was always among the busiest and she was known to stand for twenty hours assisting at operations, directing nurses, herself ministering to cholera and fever patients and distributing stores. Once she was prostrated by fever for some weeks. Illness also attacked [277] others of the nurses and many were laid in quiet graves in that distant land.

At last the fighting was brought to an end. For a year and a half had the noble and humane work of nursing gone on and shown the world how much greater is the saving of lives than the destruction of lives by the murder of war. The gratitude the English people felt for what the nurses had done they expressed by a gift of fifty thousand pounds to Miss Nightingale after her return to England. They had planned also a public welcome of their heroine, but with the modesty and calm judgment that always characterised her, she slipped quietly into England by the carriage of a French steamer and so to her country home. Queen Victoria, who with her husband the Prince Consort, had most earnestly admired Miss Nightingale's course, and had sought direct knowledge of her work during her stay in the East, entertained her at Balmoral and presented her with a valuable jewel. The sum presented her by the nation was, at her request, given to the foundation of a training home for nurses in connection with St. Thomas's Hospital. It is called the 'Nightingale Home.'

This 'Angel of the Crimea' returned to England so enfeebled with arduous labour that she has never since entered active life. She lived many years, perforce, in her own sick-room with scarcely strength to pen a letter, and saw no one but closest associates. The knowledge and experience she had got in public service, however, she gave to the world in part in her 'Notes on Nursing' and 'Notes on Hospitals,' and other publications. Several Governments have sought her advice upon the sanitation of army camps, and the Red Cross Society is in part from her aid and endeavour.

Heroines that Every Girl Should Know, Hamilton Wright Mabie & Kate Stephens

One of the most famous events of the war was the 'Charge of the Light Brigade' in which a group of British light cavalry (soldiers on horseback) were ordered to charge a highly defended set of enemy guns by mistake, making the charge extremely dangerous, but charged nonetheless as they had been ordered to do so. Many of the soldiers were killed, captured, or badly wounded. The following poem records the charge:

Charge of the Light Brigade

Half a league, half a league,
Half a league onward,
All in the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.
'Forward, the Light Brigade!
'Charge for the guns!' he said:
Into the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.

'Forward, the Light Brigade!'
Was there a man dismay'd?
Not tho' the soldier knew
Someone had blunder'd:
Theirs not to make reply,
Theirs not to reason why,
Theirs but to do and die:
Into the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.

Cannon to right of them,
Cannon to left of them,
Cannon in front of them
Volley'd and thunder'd;
Storm'd at with shot and shell,
Boldly they rode and well,
Into the jaws of Death,
Into the mouth of Hell
Rode the six hundred.

Flash'd all their sabres bare,
Flash'd as they turn'd in air,
Sabring the gunners there,
Charging an army, while
All the world wonder'd:
Plunged in the battery-smoke
Right thro' the line they broke;
Cossack and Russian
Reel'd from the sabre stroke
Shatter'd and sunder'd.
Then they rode back, but not
Not the six hundred.

Cannon to right of them,
Cannon to left of them,
Cannon behind them
Volley'd and thunder'd;
Storm'd at with shot and shell,
While horse and hero fell,
They that had fought so well
Came thro' the jaws of Death
Back from the mouth of Hell,
All that was left of them,
Left of six hundred.

When can their glory fade?
O the wild charge they made!
All the world wondered.
Honour the charge they made,
Honour the Light Brigade,
Noble six hundred.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Following orders

In times of war many countries insist that soldiers follow orders at all times. Without 'military discipline' it is difficult for everyone to work together, and ensure that battles can be fought effectively. However, some people believe that people should not be made to follow orders if they don't want to, as they may result in them dying, or having to kill other people. This is particularly the case in some cases, where laws are passed saying that people have to serve in the army, even if they don't want to join. This is called 'conscription' or 'national service'. People have divided opinions on whether this is a good thing. Some believe it takes away freedom, others believe it shows loyalty to one's country. During some wars, people have been put in prison, or even killed, for not following orders.

Why did soldiers admire Florence Nightingale? Give at least 3 reasons for your answer, and support what you have written with evidence from the passage:

The poem, Charge of the Light Brigade, says of the soldiers:

Theirs not to reason why,

Theirs but to do and die:

What do you think this means? Give clear reasons for your answer?

Some historians now believe that, because she did not have a modern understanding of how diseases spread, her actions actually led to the deaths of more soldiers than would have died anyway. If she made things worse, but was trying to do the right thing, how do you think she should be viewed? Give reasons for your answer:

British soldiers died in the Charge of the Light Brigade, because they followed orders. Do you think it is important that soldiers follow orders at all times? Give reasons for your answers:

While both the passage about Florence Nightingale, and the poem, Charge of the Light Brigade, are written about the same conflict, and both acknowledge that may soldiers die in war, they have are nonetheless very different pieces of writing. What are they key differences between these two sources? Identify at least 3 Key differences, and give reasons for what you have written. Remember to refer to give examples to support your answer:

Do you think that a written passage, or a poem, is more useful to an historian, or that both are equally important? Give reasons for your answer:

Activity 3 (1 Hour)

Empire and Exploration

During the Victorian Age, Britain grew its colonies (countries it ran as part of the British Empire) continually. Much of this process was driven by explorers, one of the most famous being David Livingstone. In 1871 he had been missing for some time in Africa, and another explorer, Stanley, set out to find him:

It was November, 1871. For weary months two heroes had been struggling in opposite directions in the African wilds—Livingstone eastward from Nyangwe on the Lualaba, to find succor at Ujiji on Tanganyika Lake, Stanley westward from Zanzibar to carry that succor and greetings, should the great explorer be still alive.

Providence had a hand in the meeting. Livingstone reached Ujiji just before Stanley. On November 2, Stanley, while pushing his way up the slopes which surrounded Tanganyika met a caravan. He asked the news, and was thrilled to find that a white man had just reached Ujiji, from the Manyuema.

'A white man?'

'Yes, a white man.'

'How is he dressed?'

'Like you.'

'Young, or old?' 'Old; white hair, and sick.'

'Was he ever there before?'

'Yes; a long time ago.'

'Hurrah!' shouted Stanley, 'it is Livingstone. March quickly my men. He may go away again!'

They pressed up the slopes and in a few days were in sight of Tanganyika. The looked for hour was at hand.

'Unfurl your flags and load your guns!' he cried to his companions.

'We will, master, we will!'

'One, two, three—fire!'

A volley from fifty guns echoed along the hills. Ujiji was awakened. A caravan was coming, and the streets were thronged to greet it. The American flag was at first a mystery, but the crowd pressed round the new comers. Stanley pushed his way eagerly, all eyes about him.

Good morning, sir!'

'Who are you?' he startlingly inquired.

'Susi; Dr. Livingstone's servant.'

'Is Livingstone here?'

'Sure, sir; sure. I have just left him.'

'Run, Susi; and tell the Doctor I am coming.'

Susi obeyed. Every minute the crowd was getting denser. At length Susi came breaking through to ask the stranger's name. The doctor could not understand it all, and had sent to find out, but at the same time in obedience to his curiosity, had come upon the street.

Stanley saw him and hastened to where he was.

'Dr. Livingstone, I presume.'

'Yes,' said he with a cordial smile, lifting his hat.

They grasped each other's hands. 'Thank God!' said Stanley, 'I have been permitted to see you!'

'Thankful I am that I am here to welcome you,' was the doctor's reply.

They turned toward the house, and remained long together, telling each other of their adventures; hearing and receiving news. At length Stanley delivered his batch of letters from home to the doctor, and he retired to read them.

Stanley in Africa Author: James P. Boyd

The British Empire

From its Early History, travellers had travelled from Europe to explore the wider world. As Britain grew more powerful as a seafaring nation, with a large navy that allowed them to explore the world more freely than other nations, it began to trade with countries all around the world, from Africa, to the Indies.

In time, a company was established known as the East India Company, one of many companies that would, in time, lead to the establishment of a British Empire, by which Britain ruled many countries throughout the world, becoming the largest empire in the history of the world.

Many people did not want their countries invaded, and felt that their culture, history, or traditions had been taken from them. However, while at first the British empire made use of slaves, buying and selling people as property, the British government eventually banned this practice, and the empire played a key role in reducing slavery throughout the world. David Livingstone, one of the famous explorers of the Victorian Age, stated:

From what I see of slaving, even in its best phases, I would not be a slave-dealer for the world.

- David Livingstone

One of the most noticeable effects of the Empire on the world can be seen today, English has become a 'world language' spoken by people in many different countries.

How does Stanley Greet Livingstone when they meet?

Do you find this surprising? Give reasons for your answer.

Why do you think people would want to explore other countries in an age when they had not been explored before? Give clear reasons for your answer:

Why do you think people would want to explore other countries in an age when they had not been explored before? Give clear reasons for your answer:

Why would Stanley's men be carrying guns on their travels? Give clear reasons for your answer:

Livingstone was opposed to the slave trade. Why do you think this was the case? Give clear reasons for your answer:

Some people believe that the British Empire was unfair, as many countries around the world were ruled by the United Kingdom. Others believe that the British Empire did much good for the world. What do you think? Give clear reasons for your answer, and give examples from what you have read:

If you lived in the Victorian Age, which part of the world would you want to explore. Give at least 5 reasons for your answer, and provide as much detail as possible:

Activity 4 (1 Hour)

The Battle of Rorke's Drift

One of the most famous battles fought in British military history occurred during the Victorian Era. It is famous because it involved such a small number of British soldiers, 141 Army regulars, supported by 11 colonial troops, facing a much larger force: The British position was attacked by 3000 to 4000 Zulu iNdluyenqwe. The battle took place in South Africa, where he Zulu were fighting a series of wars against British and Dutch settlers. The fighting went on from the 22nd of January to the 23rd, 1879.

The following passage describes the battle:

'The Zulu army, consisting of the Ulundi corps about 3000 strong, the Nokenke 2000, the Nkobamakosi, including the Uve, 5000 strong, the Umcityu 4000 strong, the Nodwengu 2000 strong, the Umbonambi 3000, and the Udkloko 1000—a total of 20,000 men in all—after an address from the king left the Nodwengu military kraal on January 17th, and proceeded on their march towards Rorke's Drift. On the 20th they halted for the night close by the Isipezi hill, and on the 21st, keeping to the eastward, they occupied a valley running north and south under the spurs of the Ngutu hill, which concealed that of Isandhlwana, distant about four miles nearly due west. The order of encampment was—on the right, the Nodwengu, Nokenke and Umcityu; in the centre, the Nkobamakosi and Umbonambi; on the left, the Ulundi and Udkloko corps. On the morning of the 22nd there was no intention of making an attack on account of some superstition as to the state of the moon, and they were sitting down resting when firing was heard by the Zulus on the right. This was at first supposed by them to be an attack on the centre, but a[55] move being made in that direction this proved not to be the case; and it was soon found out that this was the whites engaged with Matyana's people some ten miles off to the left front. Just after the Zulus had resumed their position, and again sat down, a herd of cattle came past their line driven down by some of their scouts from the right. Just when these were opposite the Umcityu regiment a body of mounted men on the hill to the west were seen galloping and evidently trying to cut them off. When several hundred yards off, seeing the Umcityu, they dismounted, fired a volley, and retired. The Umcityu at once jumped up and charged. This example was followed by the Nokenke and Nodwengu on the right, as well as by the Nkobamakosi and Umbonambi in the centre, whilst the Undi and Udkloko formed a circle—as is customary with the Zulus when a force is about to engage—and remained in their position. With these were the two chief officers Mavamingwana and Tyugwayo, who after a short pause led away these centre troops in a north-westerly direction, and keeping to the north of the Isandhlwana performed a turning movement, unseen by the English through the nature of the ground. Thus the original Zulu left became the extreme right, the right the centre, and the centre the left. The two regiments forming the latter—the Nkobamakosi and Umbonambi—made a turning movement along the front of the camp to the English right, but became engaged before they could complete it. The Uve battalion of the Nkobamakosi had to retire till reinforced; and the Umbonambi suffered heavily from the artillery fire.

Meanwhile the Zulu centre, consisting of the Umcityu [56] (left centre) and Nokenke and Nodwengu (higher up on the right) under the hill, were making a direct attack on the left of the camp. The Umcityu suffered very severely from both artillery and musketry fire; the Nokenke from musketry fire alone; while the Nodwengu suffered least. When the camp was carried the regiments became all mixed up together; some pursued the fugitives to the Buffalo; the remainder plundered the camp: but the Undi and Udkloko made the best of their way to Rorke's Drift, in order to plunder the post there.'

It is now time to turn attention to the remainder of the troops that had left the camp before this sad event occurred.

The force under Colonel Glyn, accompanied by Lord Chelmsford, moved off at early dawn, and had reached Major Dartnell by 6.15 a.m. The General at once took command, and ordered out scouting parties of mounted men to gain intelligence of the positions and strength of the enemy, who soon after showed in some force on the opposing heights parallel to the Inhlazatye Mountains. A general advance of the troops was made, and the enemy retired slowly, but without firing. The guns and 24th Regiment meanwhile moved up the valley, their left being protected by the Mounted Infantry, while the Mounted Police and Volunteers guarded the right flank. The main body of the enemy drew back in regular order and took up a position with great skill on the spurs of the Isipisi Mountain, distant about six miles, but Captain Shepstone, with his Natal Carabineers, managed to cut off about 300 of the stragglers and destroyed fifty of them. At nine a.m. a messenger, whose horse was panting and [57] covered with foam, arrived before Colonel Glyn with a brief despatch from Colonel Pulleine, notifying that musketry firing was heard on the left front of the camp. Lord Chelmsford at once sent a staff officer, Lieutenant Milne, to an eminence from whence the camp and valley of Insalwana could be seen, and it seems that a delay of an hour took place while this officer was vainly scanning the horizon. The actual scene of conflict where Colonel Durnford was engaged with the Zulu army was five miles away, and hidden by some hills intervening between Lord Chelmsford's position and the British camp. The General, therefore, seems to have felt no apprehensions in regard to the safety of the camp, and continued his operations against the supposed main body of the Zulus. About two o'clock Lord Chelmsford was on the banks of the Amange stream, selecting a fit spot for a camp, he having already in the morning sent Captain Gardner back to Colonel Pulleine with an order to that officer to forward the camping materials of the party out on reconnaissance. While thus engaged a native on horseback galloped down from the opposite ridge saying that an attack was being made on the camp, and that he had seen heavy firing and heard the big guns. Lord Chelmsford immediately hastened to the crest of the hill, whence through a glass the camp could be plainly seen. All, however, seemed quiet: the sun was shining on the white tents; no signs of firing were seen, and the bodies of men moving about in the camp were put down to be English soldiers and friendly natives. Knowing how careful were his dispositions and how positive his orders for the defence of the camp, one and all [58] of Lord Chelmsford's escort came to the conclusion that an attack had been made and repulsed. It was then decided that the headquarters camp should move to the spot selected on the Amange stream, whilst the General himself, who was anxious to know the details of the attack, should proceed back to camp. The Carabineers and the Mounted Infantry accompanied him: the 1st battalion 24th Regiment, the four guns, the Mounted Police and 2nd battalion of 3rd Regiment Native Contingent were left to form the new camp. During the first seven miles of the journey nothing occurred to excite the General's suspicion. Certainly some of the tents had disappeared, but then this was in accordance with the orders given in the morning.

When about four miles from the camp he fell in with the Natal Native Contingent, which had been ordered to return many hours previously, but which seeing the camp attacked by forces superior to its own had wisely halted. In about half-an-hour they were met by a solitary horseman coming at a foot pace from the direction of the camp. Commandant Lonsdale, for it was he, rode up to the General and uttered the astounding words 'The camp is in possession of the enemy.' It appears that Lonsdale, who had been ill, being very tired was quietly returning from Glyn's column to the camp. He had crossed the small water-wash to the south of the camp and was jogging slowly along in a sort of lethargy, from which he was roused by the discharge of a rifle close to him. Looking up, he saw a native, who had evidently just fired, and him he imagined to be one of his own contingent indulging in reckless firing; so he pursued his way. Sitting in and around the tents were groups of red-coats, [59] so he still kept on till within a bare ten yards of the tents. He then saw a great black Zulu come out of one with a blood-besmeared assegai in his hand. Gazing more carefully, he saw that black men, and black men only, were the wearers of the red-coats. The truth flashed on him: turning his pony sharp round he galloped off before the enemy knew what he was about. Not less than 150 shots were fired at him as he did so, but, providentially, he escaped to warn the General, who, without such warning, his staff and troops with him, would have walked unsuspiciously into the trap, and the whole force would probably have perished to a man.

The General at once sent back to hurry up Colonel Glyn and his force, while Colonel Russell was sent on to reconnoitre the camp, which was found to be as Commandant Lonsdale had reported. On Colonel Glyn's arrival the whole force was disposed in fighting order, and moved rapidly across the plain, but could not arrive in the vicinity of the camp until after dark. All was found a wreck—corpses, broken tents, dead horses, oxen, and other *débris* were strewed around; and the men, most of whom were without ammunition, and had not tasted food for forty-eight hours, were ordered to bivouac amidst the crowd of blood-stained relics which marked the day's slaughter. Our soldiers had covered more than thirty miles on the previous day without food or ammunition, and if resolutely attacked by the entire force of Zulus might have shared the fate of their comrades. The next morning, therefore, before daylight a sad retreat was effected to Rorke's Drift, where the first glad tidings were heard of the glorious defence which had been [60] made by Chard and Bromhead, with their handful of men.

It came about thus. Lieutenant Chard, with one sergeant and six men, had been left in charge of the ponts over the Tugela at this point. Close by was a commissariat depôt in charge of Lieutenant Bromhead and a company of the 24th Regiment. About three o'clock on January 22nd news of the disaster at Isandhlwana reached this officer, together with a note, saying that the enemy were advancing in force against his post, which was to be held at all costs. Chard immediately withdrew his small party, and in concert with Bromhead arranged for the loopholing and barricading the store-building and hospital, and for connecting the defences of the two by building walls of mealie-bags. At 3.30 an officer of Durnford's Horse with about 100 men came in, and was asked to send them out as vedettes; these, when pressed, to fall back and assist in the defence of the buildings. At 4.30 this officer returned with the news that the enemy was close at hand, that his men would not obey orders, but had galloped off to Helpmakaar. About the same time Captain Stephenson and his detachment of natives also withdrew. It was at once perceived that the line of defence was now too extended for the small force left, and an inner entrenchment of biscuit-boxes was made, and this had been completed to a wall two boxes high, when suddenly 600 of the enemy turned the hill to the south. They advanced at a run against the southern wall, and notwithstanding a tremendous fire reached to within fifty yards of it.

Being here encountered by a cross-fire from the store they were stopped.[61] Taking advantage, however, of some shelter afforded by the cookhouse and ovens, they kept up heavy musketry volleys thence, whilst the main body moved on to the left round the hospital, whence they made a rush upon the north-west wall and breastwork of mealie-bags. Meanwhile the mass of the advancing foe lined a ledge of rocks and filled the caves overlooking the English position at a distance of 100 yards to the south, whence they too kept up a constant fire. Another party to the left occupied a garden in a hollow in the road, and also the bush beyond, which time had not permitted to be cut down. The enemy could thus advance close to the English works, and were soon in possession of one whole side of the wall, whilst on the other in a line extending from the hospital all along the wall to the bush they made a series of determined onsets. But each attack was met and splendidly repulsed with the bayonet, Corporal Schiess (N.N.C.) especially distinguishing himself. The fire from the ledge of rock and caves at length became so galling, that it was necessary to retire behind the inner line of biscuit-boxes.

All this time the enemy had been trying to force the hospital, and at length they did set fire to the roof. The garrison defended the place room by room, bringing out all the sick who could be moved before they retired. Privates Williams, Hook, R. Jones, and W. Jones, 24th Regiment, were the last to leave, holding the doorway against the Zulus with their bayonets, their ammunition being quite expended. Five sick men, owing to the smoke and want of interior communication, had unfortunately to be left to their fates. Two heaps of mealie-bags [62] were now converted into a sort of redoubt, and a second line of fire was thus obtained all round. Darkness now came on, and after several more furious attacks had been repulsed the defenders had ultimately to retire to the middle, and then to the inner wall of the kraal, east of the position they had at first held. The attacks continued all night, the soldiers firing with the utmost coolness, and never wasting a shot. At four a.m., January 23rd, firing ceased, and by daybreak the enemy were disappearing over the hill to the south-west. The ground was then patrolled, the arms of the dead Zulus collected, and the position strengthened as far as possible. About seven a.m. a large body of the enemy was again seen on the hill to the south-west, and a friendly Kaffir, who had come in shortly before, was sent to Helpmakaar to ask for assistance. However, about eight a.m. the British 3rd column began to appear, whereupon the enemy, who had been again advancing, fell back as the troops advanced, and Rorke's Drift Post had been saved.

The number of English engaged in this action was eight officers and 131 non-commissioned officers and men; of these fifteen were killed and twelve wounded, two subsequently dying of their hurts. The attacking Zulu force consisted of two regiments—the Undi and Udkloko—in all a total of something less than 4000. Of these 370 lay dead around the post on the morning that Lord Chelmsford so opportunely arrived.

The Story Of The Zulu Campaign. Major Ashe (Late King's Dragoon Guards),

Author Of 'The Military Institutions Of France,' Etc.

And Captain The Hon. E. V. Wyatt-Edgell

Victoria Cross

Many armies throughout the world award medals for acts of courage and bravery during battle, or for sustaining injuries or fighting in overseas campaigns. One of the most famous medals of all is the Victoria Cross, named after Queen Victoria, awarded only for '…most conspicuous bravery, or some daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice, or extreme devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy'. The award is very rarely given, and most of those now awarded it are given the medal posthumously – meaning they died in battle, and are awarded it afterwards, to recognise their actions. It is still awarded today. Only 1,354 individuals have ever been awarded the medal, with only 14 bestowed since the Second World War. 11 Victoria Crosses were awarded to officers and soldiers who fought at Rorke's Drift.

Given the balance of forces, under 150 British soldiers, and approximately 4000 Zulu, who would you have expected to win the battle? Remember to give clear reasons for your answer:

Describe, in your own words, but drawing on the evidence within the passage, how the British soldiers managed to win the battle. Be as descriptive, and give as much detail, as possible:

Within the passage, which individual do you consider acted most bravely? Give clear reasons for your answer, with examples from the passage to support it:

The Victoria Cross is only awarded very rarely, why do you think so many were awarded after the battle of Rorke's Drift. Give clear reasons for your answer:

Think of another individual from history, not mentioned in this passage, who you think was particularly brave. They can come from any period in time, but must be a real historical figure, not a fictional character. Give at least 5 reasons for your answer:

Activity 5 (1 Hour)

World History: America in the Victorian Era: Gettysburg

Slavery in America

Although most of the world had abolished slavery in 1833, it continued to be widespread in America, until much later in the century. Many parts of America felt that their livelihoods would suffer greatly if slavery were abolished, particularly in the South of America where the economy relied heavily on plantations, most of which used slave labour. This, among other issues, led to a Civil War between the North and Southern parts of America, the Unionists and the Confederates.

It was not until 1865 that slavery was finally abolished in the United States of America.

During the American Civil War one of the major conflicts took place at Gettysburg. It was here, four and a half months after the battle, that the leader of the Unionists, Abraham Lincoln, gave a speech that came to be known as the Gettysburg Address. It is considered one of the most important speeches in America history, as well as the rest of the world.

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate, we can not consecrate, we can not hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

- Abraham Lincoln

Even though it is not a long passage, there are lots of important ideas within it. What do you think Abraham Lincoln was trying to say? Write out your understanding of the speech in your own words. Give as much detail as possible:

If you were to write a speech, saying what important lessons we can learn from history about how countries can be run, what key issue would you write about? Give reasons for your answer:

Which part of Abraham Lincoln's speech do you consider most powerful? Give clear reasons for your answer, with examples from the speech:

Imagine you are a world leader at any time in history. You have been asked to give a speech on the important issue you identified earlier in this activity. Write a short speech, making it as powerful and as detailed as possible: