

Important Topic Vocabulary

blockade	An action that is taken to prevent goods or people from entering or leaving it.
cotton spinning	Refers to the machinery used to twist strands of cotton together to form thread.
economic boom	An increase in the amount of things that are being bought and sold.
export	To export products or raw materials means to sell them to another country.
famine	This is where large numbers of people have little or no food, and many of them die.
import	To import products or raw materials means to buy them from another country.
poverty	The state of being extremely poor.
riots	A crowd of people who behave violently in a public place.
slave trade	The buying and selling of slaves from the 16 th to the 19 th century.
unemployment	When people who are actively seeking a job are unable to find work.
workhouse	A place during the Victorian era where very poor people could live and complete unpleasant jobs in return for food and shelter.

What I should already know:

Lancashire is a county in the north-west of England. The Victorians were the people who lived during the reign of Queen Victoria. Our school houses are named after 4 Oldham mills: Falcon, Kent, Manor & Hawthorn. Oldham was known as a mill town due to cotton-spinning. The mills are no longer used for cotton production. Children worked in a full-time job by the age of 12 in a mill or mine. Oldham is a county in Greater Manchester and it borders Tameside and Rochdale. Chadderton is an urban town where green spaces are limited.



Burnley Brow School is built on the site of the old Kent Mill.



Falcon Mill



Hawthorn Mill



Manor Mill

'Lancashire cotton famine' (1862-1863)

In **Lancashire** and the surrounding areas, lots of cotton factories (sometimes called **mills**) were built. These factories turned **raw cotton** (the white fluffy fibre) into material that could be used to make clothes and other things.

The **American Civil War** (1861-1865) was fought largely over the issue of **slavery**. The fighting was between the states in the '**Union**' **north** and 11 states in the 'Confederate or **rebel**' **south** who wanted to separate from the rest of the USA and continue the system of slavery.

Anti-slavery activity was increasing and President Abraham Lincoln was determined to bring an end to slavery. The north **blockaded** southern **ports** so goods could not be brought in or out. This meant the **export** of raw slave-grown cotton dried up as **eighty percent** of the **raw cotton** that was **spun** in Oldham was **slave grown** cotton imported from the **southern states of America**.

Liverpool traders also suspended trade waiting for prices to increase. This led to the '**Lancashire cotton famine**' (1862-1863).

Victorian era

This is the period of time between 1837 to 1901 when Queen Victoria reigned over Britain. During her 63-year reign, there was a huge contrast between how the rich and poor Victorians lived. Queen Victoria led the expansion of the British empire and saw major changes to all aspects of Britain due to exciting discoveries and inventions.



Cotton is a natural fibre that grows on a plant that is woven and spun into fabric.



Cotton spinning machine used in the cotton mills.

Oldham during the Victorian era

Oldham had grown from a small market town into an **industrial capital** during the **Victorian period** to become '**The cotton Spinning Capital**' of the World. Advancements in transport and machinery allowed Oldham to be perfectly placed to take advantage of the **economic boom** that was created by an **abundant supply of cotton**. **Eighty percent** of the **raw cotton** that was **spun** in Oldham was **slave grown** cotton imported from the **southern states of America**.

With less cotton being imported to Britain, there were mill closures, **mass unemployment** and **poverty** struck northern Britain. In the time before unemployment benefits, many families faced starvation and faced ending up in the workhouse.

The working class felt bitter about how they were treated. In 1863, There were several **riots** across the **region**: Stalybridge, Dukinfield and Ashton.

As a result, the Government promised to improve both the economic and social spaces within the north-west.

Differences between the wealthy and the poor

Wealthy	Poor, working class
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many were mill owners or owned land. The rich owned large houses with lots of bedrooms and even had flushing toilets. Rich families often had servants working for them who would cook and clean. Many had made a huge profit from the Slave Trade. They could afford lots of treats like holidays, fancy clothes, and even telephones when they were invented. Rich children were educated formally in their homes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many lived in the workhouses or they lived in the terraced houses which were built back-to-back in rows next to the mills. Poor people – even children – had to work hard in factories, mines or workhouses. They didn't get paid very much money. Poor children went to school for part of the school day but they were expected to be working full-time in either a mine or a factory by the of age 12.



1861-1865

The American Civil War



1838

Queen Victoria crowned aged 18.

1862

Lancashire cotton famine

1863

Riots in the north-west

1870

Schools are built for children aged 5-10.