

MAX IN... THE VICTORIANS

This month, NG Kids' time-travelling mouse, Max, zooms back to an exciting time in history...



Whee! It's the Victorian era - an amazing period of exciting discoveries and inventions!

Check me out on my penny farthing! Who needs horses, eh? What a cheek!



Queen Victoria, niece of William IV, came to the throne in 1837 and married Prince Albert in 1840. After the troubled kings of the Georgian era, she was a breath of fresh air to the British public - rarely had a monarch been so popular!

Whoa-hoo! They're great!
I think they like us!
Yippee!



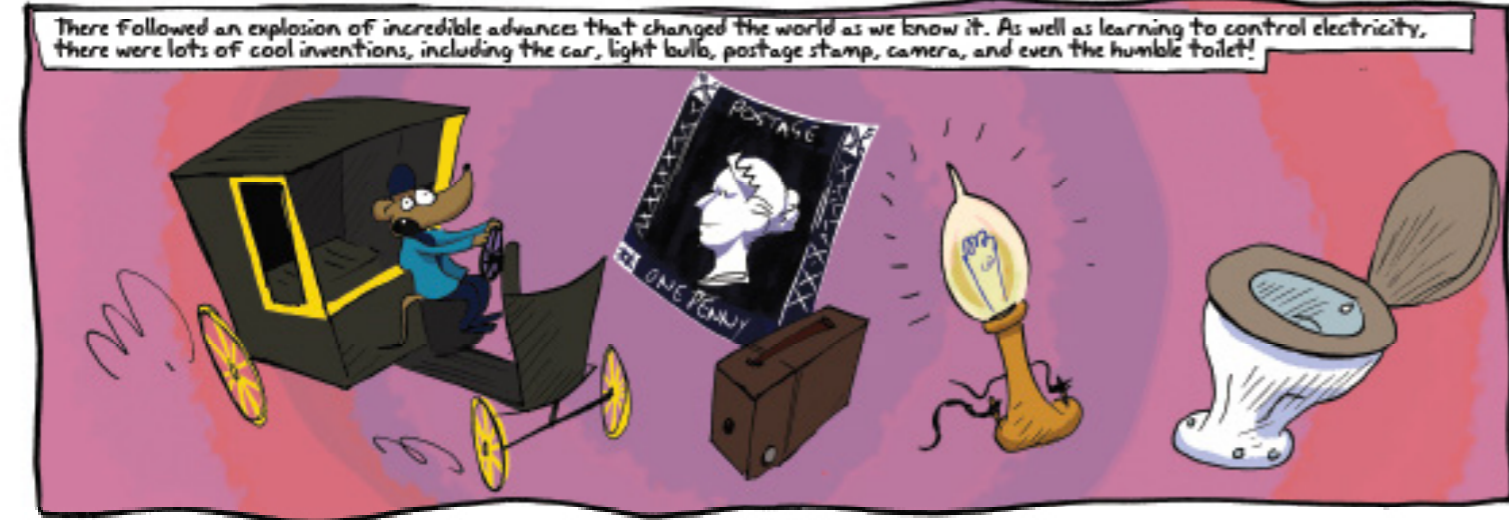
Victoria's reign saw exciting strides in communication and transport, beginning with the invention of the bicycle in 1840. Unfortunately, even though it had pedals, it didn't have brakes...

AAAAIEEE! Why didn't anyone tell me?



Communication also began to develop, with telegraphs letting people send messages to each other via electric charges (this method was later replaced with morse code). By 1860, messages were being sent across the whole world! And it wasn't long before actual speech could be transmitted over wires, thanks to Alexander Graham Bell's telephone!

Typical, it's engaged!

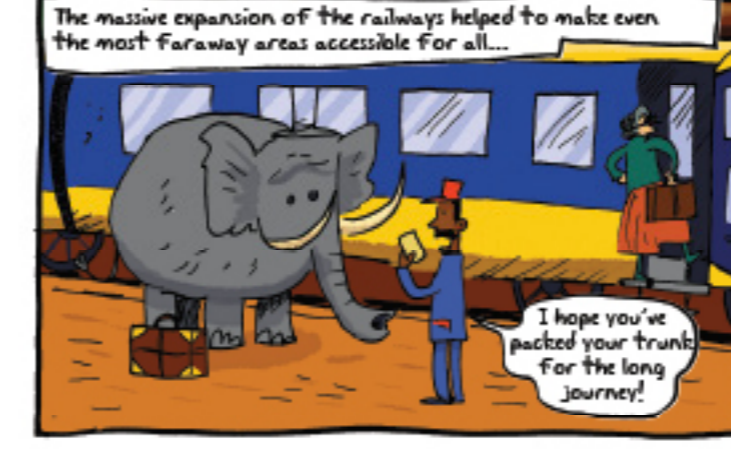


There followed an explosion of incredible advances that changed the world as we know it. As well as learning to control electricity, there were lots of cool inventions, including the car, light bulb, postage stamp, camera, and even the humble toilet!



People were still using steam power, and the first underground train line opened in London in 1863. But they were very uncomfortable, dark and dusty journeys...

Splutter!
Isn't modern technology wonderful?
Poo!
Cough cough!



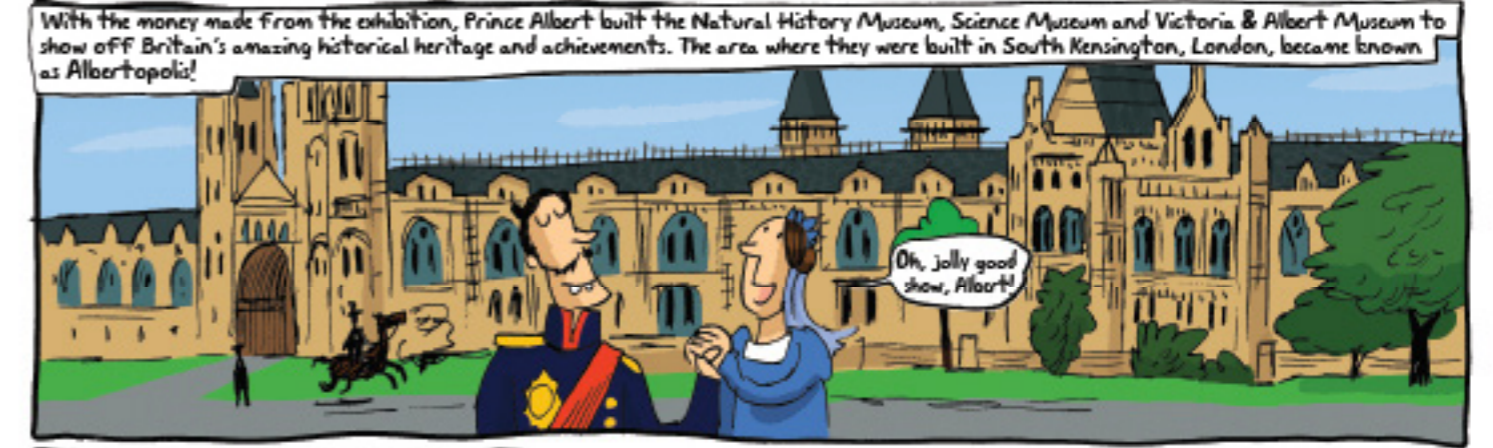
The massive expansion of the railways helped to make even the most faraway areas accessible for all...

I hope you've packed your trunk for the long journey!



So proud were Queen Victoria and Prince Albert with all these amazing discoveries and inventions that they had a Great Exhibition in 1851...

Held in a massive Crystal Palace in Hyde Park, London, it was visited by six million people!
On show were early fax machines, cameras, all sorts of mind-boggling machinery and even false teeth!



With the money made from the exhibition, Prince Albert built the Natural History Museum, Science Museum and Victoria & Albert Museum to show off Britain's amazing historical heritage and achievements. The area where they were built in South Kensington, London, became known as Albertopolis!

Oh, jolly good show, Albert!



Albert also introduced the idea of decorating Christmas trees. Although in those days, people used candles as fairy lights...

My fir's on fire!
YIKES!
Oops.



When Albert died, Victoria made sure the world never forgot him. Many monuments and buildings were dedicated to him...

...including the magnificent Royal Albert Hall in Albertopolis! Anyone for the proms?!



Come back next month when we bring British history right up to date!

CHOCOS AWAY!

THE END