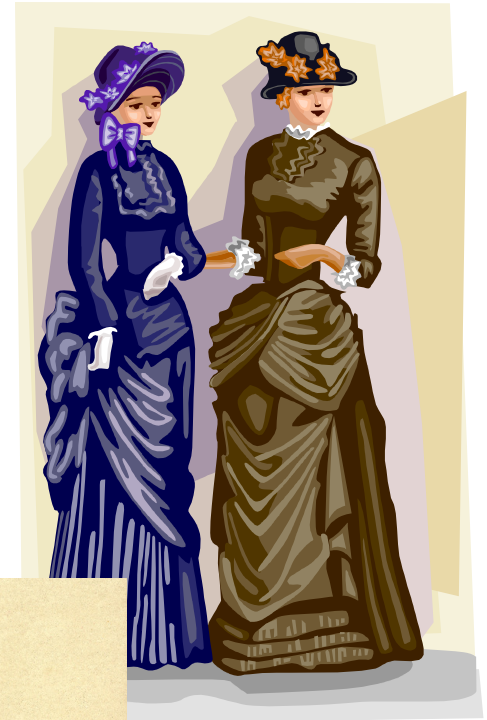




THE VICTORIAN PERIOD

1837-1901



UNBRIDLED OPTIMISM

- Queen Victoria reigned for 64 years.
 - Britain's economy rapidly grew
 - Modern Middle Class evolved
 - The Empire expanded
- Democracy strengthened
- Free trade evolved after the Irish Potato Famine

PAX BRITANNICA

- Period of peace that continued through most of Queen Victoria's reign
 - Allowed people to get comfortable, live easily
 - Delusional?

MAJOR ADVANCES

- Train track/bridge construction
- Ether (nitrous oxide and chloroform!)
- Architecture
- Photography

POVERTY

- Industrial Revolution continued, making population high and available housing low
- “"Hideous slums, some of them acres wide, some no more than crannies of obscure misery, make up a substantial part of the metropolis... In big, once handsome houses, thirty or more people of all ages may inhabit a single room."



CHILD LABOUR

- In 1840 only about 20 percent of the children in London had any schooling. By 1860 about half of the children between 5 and 15 were in school (including Sunday School)
- Children worked as coal miners, chimney sweeps, domestic servants, factory workers, mill workers, and prostitutes.
- Laws restricted children to 12, then 10, working hours a day.

PRECIOUS VICTORIAN THOUGHTS

- Had a confidence in humanity's ability to better itself
- Grappled with Darwin
- Believed in bigger, better, fancier, curlier, more cluttered, extra, more! MOAR!
- Black & white morality
- Obsession with supernatural
- Cutesification of death

HORROR VICTORIANORUM

- Term used to describe hatred/fear/disgust with the Victorian period.

STEAMPUNK

- Term used to describe people who are really into Victorian science fiction.