Living conditions of the poor

Millions of people moved from the country to work in the big industrial towns of the north. The mills and factories developed quickly and the houses that were built were cramped, crowded and dark.
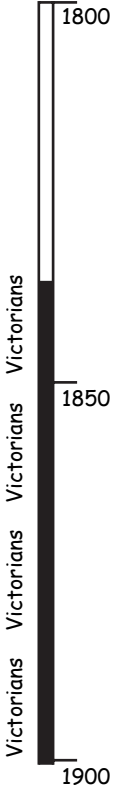
People had to fetch water from a nearby pump in buckets. The water was often dirty and made many people ill. They also had to share a stinking toilet with as many as a hundred people. Dirty water and chamber pots were emptied in to a gulley in the street. The air was polluted with smoke and steam from homes and factories.

In some areas, as many as 20 people lived in one damp room. It was not surprising that diseases such as cholera, typhoid, smallpox, tuberculosis and pneumonia spread quickly, and thousands of people, especially children, died.

Here is how a visitor to a big city described the condition of the houses in the 1840s:

The walls of the houses are crumbling, doorposts and window frames loose and broken... Heaps of garbage and ashes lie in all directions, and the foul liquids emptied before the doors gather in stinking pools..........

1800
Victorians Victorians Victorians Victorians Victorians Victorians
1850
1900

List 8 reasons why people in many Victorian towns and cities were so unhealthy.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____
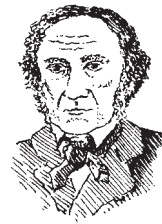
8. _____

Name diseases that killed many people. _____
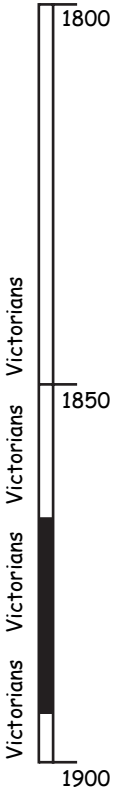
Why are these diseases so rare nowadays?

_____

Great Victorian Prime Ministers

Benjamin Disraeli and William Gladstone were the main Prime Ministers
of Queen Victoria's reign.
Read the information below then write a short paragraph about each one.

Benjamin Disraeli 1804 - 1881	William Gladstone 1809 - 1898
Prime Minister 1868, 1874 - 80	Prime Minister 1868 - 74, 1880 - 85, 86 1892 - 94
Conservative	Liberal
Introduced social reforms, which allowed more people to vote	MP for 62 years
Introduced public health acts which made local authorities responsible for health and hygiene	Tried unsuccessfully to introduce home rule in Ireland
Made Queen Victoria Empress of India	Introduced an education act which gave schooling to all children from 5 - 13
Was a great rival of Gladstone	Introduced a reform act which gave the vote to farm workers
Was a great public speaker	Was disliked by Queen Victoria who said, 'He speaks to me like a public meeting'
Very popular with Queen Victoria	
Wrote novels - the most famous one Sybil, showed Victorian life as it was	

1800
Victorians   Victorians
1850
Victorians   Victorians
Victorians   Victorians
Victorians
1900

Benjamin Disraeli

_____

_____

_____

William Gladstone

_____

_____

_____

Looking at History Book 6
The Victorians

Gill Nettle
Illustrated by David Brindley

Contents

Cover picture: Top row (left to right) William the Conqueror, Henry VIII, Queen Victoria
Bottom row (left to right) William Caxton, Oliver Cromwell, Horatio Nelson, Winston Churchill