

A Victorian Christmas

9 Before Queen Victoria was crowned in 1837, nobody in
17 Britain had heard of Christmas crackers or Christmas
28 cards, and most people did not have time off from work.
36 However, the wealth and technology available in Victorian
45 times transformed Christmas. Here are some of the ways
49 the festive period altered:

51 Christmas Crackers

59 • In 1848, London sweet-maker, Tom Smith, invented the
68 Christmas cracker as a way of selling more sweets.

78 • Over time, these changed to contain small gifts and paper
79 hats.

81 Christmas Cards

92 • In response to his friend's desire to send a Christmas greeting,
101 John Calcott Horsley created the first ever Christmas card
103 in 1843.

104 Holidays

114 • More people could afford to spend two days away from
120 work to celebrate the festive period.

130 • People could travel by train to see distant family members.

139 • Boxing Day was so-called because servants were given a
145 box by their employers, containing money.

Quick Questions



1. When did Queen Victoria become the monarch?



2. Find and copy two words that mean the same as 'changed'.



3. Find a sentence with a modal verb within the text. How does it affect the sentence?



4. Summarise the main information from the text 30 words or less.

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Quick Questions



1. When did Queen Victoria become the monarch?

Accept: 1837



2. Find and copy two words that mean the same as 'changed'.

Accept transformed and altered.



3. Find a sentence with a modal verb within the text. How does it affect the sentence?

Accept 'they could afford to spend two days away from work...' / 'people could travel by train' – they show that these things became possible whereas they hadn't been before.



4. Summarise the main information from the text 30 words or less.

Accept any reasonable summary which is 30 words or less in length. Before the Victorians, many Christmas traditions did not exist. Christmas crackers and cards were invented and people began taking time from work at Christmas.