

A Sense of Place

Video: *Victoria and Albert Museum* (Rick Steves)

Video: *Victoria and Albert Museum* (Lucy Corban)

Elgar: *Cello Concerto* (1919), Sheku Kanneh-Mason at the Proms

Arne: *Rule Britannia* (Dame Sarah Connolly, last night of the Proms)

F. Amenities

Much of the London bequeathed us by the Victorians is devoted to providing amenities for the middle classes, such as the museums and concert halls above, a network of parks, shopping, and theatre.

Frampton: *Peter Pan* (1912, Kensington Gardens)

Film: *Finding Neverland* (2004, Johnny Depp, Kate Winslet), opening

Video: Burlington Arcade

Video: The History of Liberty's

Gilbert/Sullivan: *Patience* (1881, Heavy Dragoons), Opera Australia

JM **Barrie** (1860–1937, *Scottish writer*), Charles **Barry** (1795–1860, *English architect*), Isambard Kingdom **Brunel** (1806–59, *English engineer*), André **Derain** (1880–1954, *French painter*), Richard **D'Oyly Carte** (1844–1901, *English impresario*), Edward **Elgar** (1857–1934, *English composer*), George **Frampton** (1860–1928, *English sculptor*), William Powell **Frith** (1819–1909, *English painter*), WS **Gilbert** (1836–1911, *English writer*), Claude **Monet** (1840–1926, *French painter*), John **Nash** (1752–1835, *English architect*), Joseph **Paxton** (1803–65, *English architect*), Yinka **Shonibare** (1962–, *English sculptor*), Arthur **Sullivan** (1842–1900, *English composer*), Joseph **Wright** of Derby (1734–97, *English painter*)



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10. London, City of the Times

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AFTER TAKING A RAPID OVERVIEW OF THE MILLENNIUM OF HISTORY that still leaves traces on London, we shall concentrate especially on the city in what we may call the Long Nineteenth Century (around 1780 to 1914). The first hour has three topics: Empire, Technology, and the River. While all three were important forces on Victorian London, they do pose problems in the modern era. Colonialism is a dirty word, and most traces of Empire have been erased. Technology has become the currency of modern life everywhere, and the pioneering contributions in Great Britain are now taken for granted. And the great era of the London Docks, which made Victorian London the most prosperous city in the world, has come and gone.

In the second hour, we look especially at amenities for the rising middle-classes. The cluster of museums and other institutions that sprang up after the Great Exhibition, as a continuation of Prince Albert's belief in education, science, and the arts. The growth of the London parks. The big stores and specialist shops that made the West End a magnet for all who could afford it. And the success of the London theatre, in particular the works of Gilbert and Sullivan presented at the new Savoy. *rb.*

A. London on the Map

London through the centuries, as context to the Nineteenth Century, which marked the apex of the city's prosperity at home and abroad.

Video: *A City for All Centuries* (song by the Mediaeval Baebes)

Video: *The Entire History of London in 24 Minutes* (18th/19th C)

B. Empire

Although modern Britain tries to hide them, London is full of reminders of its history as the capital of the British Empire. We examine the evidence in Whitehall, Trafalgar Square, and South Kensington.

Video: *How Victorian Britain Became A Global Superpower*

C. Technology

Britain's 19th-century prosperity has much to do with innovations in technology, from stations to sewers. Both leave a mark on London today.

Frith: *The Railway Station* (1861, video pan)

Michael Buerk: *How the Victorians Built Britain* (excerpts, BBC)

Video: *Inside Tower Bridge* (excerpt)

D. River

To a large extent, London is shaped by its place on the River Thames. But the vast docks that delivered its wealth in Victorian times are now a thing of the past, or have been developed in quite different directions.

Monet and Derain: Views on the River Thames (1871 and 1906)

Video: *Call the Midwife* (BBC, opening sequence)

Video: *How the Docklands Light Railway Began*, excerpts

E. Education

Victorians in general, and Prince Albert in particular, were aware of the importance of education in building and maintaining a prosperous middle class. Albert's triumph was the Great Exhibition of 1851, whose profits funded the vast educational complex then known as *Albertopolis*.

Wright: *A Philosopher Lectures on the Orrery* (1762. Derby)

Video: *Prince Albert's Legacy in South Kensington*

Video: *Science Museum, Museum of the Year*