

## Did you know?

- The Crystal Palace measured 564 by 138 metres and was constructed from thousands of panes of glass. It was as big as 15 football pitches!
- The Crystal Palace featured the first public toilet cubicles. The inventor, George Jennings, charged a penny to use them, which is why people use the expression, 'spend a penny'.
- One of the exhibits shown at the Great Exhibition was a hammock bed that doubled as a boat if your ship sank!
- In Victorian England, classes were huge. There were sometimes more than 100 children in every class!
- Teachers often beat children using a cane, a long stick made from birch wood. Boys were usually caned on their backsides and girls were either beaten on their bare legs or across their hands. A child could receive a caning for all sorts of reasons, including rudeness, leaving a room without permission, laziness, telling lies and playing truant.
- Children as young as six regularly carried out dangerous tasks, such as clearing blockages on spinning frames in mills.
- Queen Victoria did not like smoking and had 'no smoking' signs placed in almost all the rooms in her palaces. She also disliked using the newly invented telephone.
- All Victorian rocking horses were grey with dappled markings, and the tail and mane were made from real horsehair.
- Until the 1890s, when microscopes proved that micro-organisms caused diseases, most people believed that illness was caused by bad odours.
- The Victorian era was a great time for inventions. The telephone, radio, flushing toilet, camera, adhesive postage stamp, railway train, vacuum cleaner and sewing machine were all invented by Victorians!

