



10 GREAT Victorian Inventions You Probably Still Have In Your House Today!!

The Victorians were very innovative and designed many important inventions to make everyday life a little simpler. Below are 10 that are still in use today. How many do you still have in your house?

1. **The Telephone** - Invented by Alexander Graham Bell in 1876, the first phone call was made between him and his assistant. He was not the only inventor to be designing a telephone, but he was the first to register the patent for his design. He also invented the first metal detector and a device for detecting icebergs!
2. **Postage Stamps**- The first adhesive postage stamp was called the penny black (because it cost 1 penny and was black in colour) It was first introduced in Britain in 1840. Believe it or not the first batch of stamps printed had to be cut out by hand!
3. **The Lightbulb**-Thomas Edison was a hard worker and registered over 1000 patents during his lifetime, including the light bulb in 1880. Similar inventions had been explored but none were as safe or affordable as Edison's filament light bulb. He also devised a utility system to deliver electricity into people's homes via wires.
4. **The Toaster**- The first electric toaster was invented in 1893 by Alan MacMasters in Scotland, although the pop up toaster didn't come around though until 1919. Prior to this the Victorians used long handled toasting forks or toasting plates which went on top of the range cooker.
5. **Toilet Roll**- Commercially available toilet paper reached Britain in 1880 when the British Perforated Paper Company started production. Marketing their product specifically for the water closet (toilet.) Prior to this people used all kind of things to wipe their bottoms including paper from books, leaves, wool and even fruit skins.
6. **Jelly Babies**- The sweets were invented in 1864 by an Austrian immigrant working at *Fryers of Lancashire* and became a firm favourite for sweet toothed Victorians. Did you know the Jelly babies all have a name? The yellow one is called Bubbles, Baby Bonny is the red one, Boofuls is green, the dark purple, blackcurrant flavoured baby is called Bigheart and the orange one is Bumper.
7. **Antiseptic**- In 1867 Joseph Lister first used antiseptic to hospital wards at the Royal Infirmary in Glasgow. It was designed to cut down the transmission of germs, especially for patients after surgery. It was the beginning of our understanding of germs and how to prevent the spread- really important today!
8. **Chocolate Easter Eggs** – The first Victorian Easter eggs were actually cardboard (Yum!) Shaped like an egg and contained small sweets. But in 1875 Cadbury introduced a hollow chocolate egg filled with sugar coated chocolate drops. They were however quite expensive and remained a luxury item for many years.
9. **The Iron**- The first electric iron was invented in 1882 by Henry W. Seeley. Another popular Victorian model was the flat iron, made from cast iron metal and could easily be mass produced, however both were very heavy- solid iron did not make light work of the ironing!
10. **Cameras**- The 'Kodak' camera was developed by George Eastman and went on sale in 1888, pioneering the use of photographic film. It came pre-loaded with a 100 exposure film. Once you'd finished you had to post it back to the factory to have print made-Cheese!

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