

THE GRUBBY VICTORIANS

Drink water straight from the dirty river?

You must be joking! But that's exactly what our Victorian cousins did and it was making them really ill, as Professor H₂O explains...



1830s

Dirty water is making people all around Bristol (and the country) really ill. Without a safe water system in place, people took water from the same rivers that they emptied their toilets into. This water contained Cholera.

Cholera is a water-borne disease caused by creatures so tiny, you can only see them using Professor H₂O's microscope.



1846 The birth of Bristol Water!



People drank beer instead of water because it was safer!

1860s

Budd and Fry win the battle of Bristol's water supply and begin their plans to give everyone in the city access to squeaky clean water from the Mendip Hills. Brunel's Clifton Suspension Bridge opens in 1864.



1870s

You know how some shops shut for the night and open again in the morning? This used to be the same for our water supply! Until the 1870s when the lucky folk of Bristol could get their hands on clean water at any hour of the day.



1837 Victoria becomes Queen



1840s

Brunel finishes building the SS Great Britain – no one had designed a ship so vast, strong and powerful before.

Now he wants to supply people with clean drinking water – hooray! – but only those living in the posh wealthy parts of Bristol – boo! But, wait a second, here come William Budd and Francis Fry, who are passionate about supplying everyone with yummy, clean water, so that we can become healthy and rid the city of nasty old cholera.



1835 Bristol Zoo opens – it's the fifth oldest zoo in the world.

60 second history quiz!

- Q How long was Victoria the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland?
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- Q If Bristol Zoo is the 5th oldest, which zoo is the oldest in the world?
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- Q What yummy treat did Francis Fry and his family produce?
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