

### 3 – 1      **The Colonies in the Reign of Queen Victoria**      p. 84 – 87

- The Victorian Era – named after the reign (1837-1901) of Queen Victoria of the British Empire. Victorian attitudes & prejudices were copied in North America by all classes.
- Victorians stressed morals, hard work & personal success.
- *“The sun doesn’t set on the British Empire.”*
  - British Empire was the world’s superpower with colonies in Canada, Australia, India, New Zealand & South Africa.
  - The powerful Royal Navy was used to defend these colonies & their valuable trade routes.
  - New discoveries in science, technology & medicine enhanced the Empire further.
- Victorians had great confidence in themselves & the Empire. Most Victorians thought they were superior to all other people (Aboriginals, Africans, Asians, Eastern Europeans, Irish etc.)
- Victorians were conscious of social class & status. Occupation & social standing were determined by a person’s family background.
- The **social class system** of Britain & Canada:
  - **Upper Class** – aristocrats, nobles with inherited titles & land, best education & no need to work.
  - **Middle Class** – benefited from industrial revolution, business owners, clerks, doctors, lawyers.
  - **Working Class** – skilled & unskilled labour, most affected by immigration, poor pay & working conditions.
- There was no government assistance (unemployment insurance, welfare etc.), although churches did provide help for the poor.
- The Anglican Church was very important to most English Victorians & many social activities centered on the church. Church leaders could influence voters.
- Irish immigrants tended to be Catholic & the Scottish were Presbyterian – most wanted to escape the social class system.

Queen Victoria

