

# Charles Dickens

Charles John Huffam Dickens was born in 1812 at Portsmouth to John and Elizabeth Dickens. Dickens' books were written during the reign of Queen Victoria which was 1837—1901.

In Britain, many old ways of doing things were replaced by new inventions. It was known as the 'Industrial Revolution'.

At the same time there was a population boom. Many people struggled to survive in poor dirty city slums. Dickens was concerned about this and highlighted peoples poor lives by writing their situations into his books, showing how children were used as chimney sweeps, miners and factory workers working for very long hours. He thought they all should be able to go to school.

Through his father's work Charles moved closer to London and eventually worked there as a reporter. He married Catherine Thompson Hogarth and lived in London where they had ten children. Dickens travelled a lot. He went to America, Italy, Switzerland and France. He spoke out about the bad way poor people were treated in the world. He moved to a big house in Rochester, where, writing his last book 'The Mystery of Edwin Drood', he died in 1870. He was buried at Westminster Abbey. His books have been made into films, musicals and television dramas, and of course the 'Muppet Christmas Carol', with Michael Caine!