

Year 8: The Industrial Revolution

<p>Key words:</p> <p>Industrial Revolution: A time of great change in Britain from c. 1750 – 1900, when people started to make things using machines in factories.</p> <p>Urbanisation: The process by which people move from the countryside to either towns or cities. A characteristic of the Industrial Revolution.</p> <p>Rural: Countryside areas in which the population is spread thinly and where villages are the main forms of settlement</p> <p>Population: The number of people living in a particular place.</p> <p>Factories: Places where goods are mass produced</p> <p>Workhouse: An institution which would house and look after the poor. In return for food and lodging, inmates would be expected to work to produce goods.</p> <p>Cholera: An infectious and often fatal disease caused by contaminated water. It causes severe vomiting and diarrhoea and death by dehydration. The first epidemic of cholera took place in Britain in 1831.</p> <p>Miasma: A popular idea that bad smells or rotting matter was the cause of disease.</p> <p>Spinning Jenny: a machine developed in the 1770s that had more than one spindle. This meant that larger quantities of cloth could be produced than in the domestic system.</p> <p>Laissez-faire: an idea that the government should not involve itself in issues affecting people.</p> <p>The “Great Stink”: took place in summer 1858 where the smell from human waste in the River Thames meant that Parliament was disrupted. It led to government improving London’s sewers.</p>	<p>2. Key changes</p> <p>By 1914, Britain had become a great trading nation with a worldwide empire, which covered nearly 25% of the world’s land area. Britain had changed hugely as a result of the Industrial Revolution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 260% growth in population. • A change from agriculture to industry. • A move from small-scale domestic production to factory work. • A move from water and wind power to steam engines and, later, electricity. • A revolution in transport and communications, from canals and pack horses, to railways and the telegraph. • It had become the “workshop of the world”, leading the way in technology, design and engineering. Key people included the engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel, James Hargreaves (inventor of the Spinning Jenny) and Thomas Newcomen (inventor of the first steam engine). <p>The growth of towns and cities was a key feature of the Industrial Revolution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1750, only about 15% of the population lived in towns. By 1900, it was 85%. • By 1900, London had 4.5 million inhabitants. The biggest other towns were Glasgow (760,000) and Liverpool (685,000). Manchester had Birmingham had more than 500,000 people living in each.
<p>Factory Conditions:</p> <p>Long working hours: normal shifts were 12-14 hours a day, with extra time required during busy periods. Workers were often required to clean their machines at mealtimes.</p> <p>Low wages: a typical wage for men was 15 shillings (75p) a week, but women and children were paid much less. Women typically earned 7 shillings (35p) a week and children 3 shillings (15p). Employers therefore preferred to employ women and children.</p> <p>Cruel discipline: “strapping” was frequent (hitting with a leather strap). Other punishments included hanging iron weights around children’s necks, nailing ears to the table, dowsing them in water butts to keep them awake and hanging them from the roof in baskets.</p> <p>Fierce system of fines: these were imposed for talking or whistling, leaving the room without permission or having a little dirt on a machine.</p> <p>Accidents: forcing children to crawl into dangerous machinery led to many accidents. Up to 40% of accident cases at Manchester Infirmary in 1833 were factory accidents.</p> <p>Parish apprentices: orphans from workhouses were “apprenticed” to factory owners, supposedly to learn the textiles trade. They worked long shifts and slept in barracks attached to the factory.</p>	<p>Living conditions in Industrial Towns</p> <p>Pollution: coal was used to heat houses, cook food and heat water to produce steam to power machines in factories. The burning of coal created smoke leading to terrible pollution in the cities.</p> <p>Overcrowding: due to large numbers of people moving to the cities, there were not enough houses. High rents and low wages caused families to live in as small a space as possible, sometimes a whole family would live in a room.</p> <p>Lack of fresh water: people could get water from a variety of places, such as streams, wells and stand pipes but this water was often polluted by human waste.</p> <p>Waste disposal: gutters were filled with litter and streets were covered with horse manure, collected by boys to sell to farmers. Human waste went directly into the sewers, which were often poorly maintained and flowed into the rivers.</p> <p>Poor quality housing: houses were built very close together so there was little light or fresh air. They did not have running water or a toilet. Walls were thin so houses were often very damp causing ill-health.</p> <p>Disease: common throughout the Industrial Revolution due to overcrowding, poor living conditions and contaminated water supplies.</p>