

Y8 History

The Industrial Revolution



Summary

The Industrial Revolution was when Britain changed from an agrarian country to an industrial one between the years 1750-1900. The population of Britain grew rapidly leading to changes such as mechanisation of farming and the move from home production of cloth to purpose built factories. The coal and steel industries developed and steam power was central to the Industrial Revolution. However, the lives of people in Britain changed massively during this era; many workers were exploited and there was concern over child labour. By 1900 Britain had become a powerful and industrial nation.

Key Figures

Thomas Coke	He was an agriculturalist from Holkham, Norfolk who pioneered the Norfolk four course crop rotation.
Richard Arkwright	Known as the 'Father of the Factory' system. His 'water frame' required water power and was too big to be housed in a cottage. He established the first 'factory' at Cromford in Derbyshire.
Thomas Telford	He was a builder of roads, canals and bridges.
George Stephenson	Known as the 'Father of the Railways' built locomotives initially to transport coal from the mines in the North East. His most famous train was the 1829 'Rocket'.
Robert Owen	He was a factory owner who was concerned about poor conditions and child labour. His factory in New Lanark provided education for children and he reduced hours for his workers.



Key Vocabulary

The Population Explosion	A rapid increase in the population of a country e.g. Britain 1750-1900 .
Agrarian	A country where most people live on the countryside and work in farming.
Urban	A country where most people live in towns and cities.
Factory	A purpose-built building used to house machinery powered by water or steam.
Mine	Digging underground to extract minerals such as coal and iron ore.
Entrepreneur	Someone who invents something or comes up with an important new idea or method.
Public Health	The state of living areas in towns such as water, sewerage and toilet facilities.
Social Reformer	A person concerned with the lives of workers and the poor, e.g. Edwin Chadwick.
Emigration	Moving to another country. Many of the industrial poor did this by 1900.
Mechanisation	Replacing the labour of people with machinery.

Challenge— Who were the winners and losers of the Industrial Revolution? Overall, was it a good thing?

Look at the timeline. What do you think is the most important development of the era? Explain your decision..

Other Resources

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zm7qtfr>

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SCAN ME

1712 Newcomen invented a steam engine.

1769 Arkwright invented the Water Frame

1772 The first canal built

1775 Watt improves the steam engine.

1801 Trevithick invented a moving steam locomotive.

1829 Stephenson built 'The Rocket'.

1851 The Great Exhibition shows off industrial might.

1900 many workers live in poverty.

1900 population has risen from 7m in 1750 to 35m.

TIMELINE