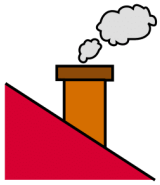
Name & Surname: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

# The Industrial Revolution

How Britain became an industrial nation, 1750-1900



About 50 minutes Level ★★★☆☆

## Britain, 1750-1900

Between about 1750 and 1900 Britain changed from a mainly farming country to the world's first industrial nation. **Steam power** made with coal drove new machines in **factories**, especially for cotton textiles. Work moved from cottages at home to mills and factory towns. Growing trade with the **empire** gave raw materials and markets for British goods.



- Before: most people lived in villages and made goods by hand at home.
- After: many moved to fast-growing towns in the Midlands, North West and Scottish Lowlands to work in mills, mines and factories, including many women and children.
- Town life was often hard: crowded back-to-back houses, shared street pumps, polluted water, smog from coal, and diseases such as cholera and typhoid.
- People demanded a say: the 1832 Great Reform Act got rid of rotten boroughs and gave big new towns such as Manchester their own MPs.

## Task A

/12

**Work alone. Aim for 10 points in 8 minutes. Harder questions earn more points.**

**1 point**
What work did most people do before the Industrial Revolution?

**1 point**
What fuel was burned to power steam engines and factories?

**1 point**
Where was work done before factories were built?

**2 points**
Which industry was first to use factories on a large scale?

**2 points**
Give one reason towns grew very quickly.

**2 points**
Give one health problem caused by crowded, dirty housing.

**3 points**
What did the 1832 Great Reform Act do to rotten boroughs?



**My score: _____ out of 12 · Target: 8**

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# Key Words Puzzle

Check meanings, then solve the crossword.

## Key words

**steam power:** energy from boiling water used to drive machines

**factory:** large building where machines make goods

**urban:** related to towns and cities

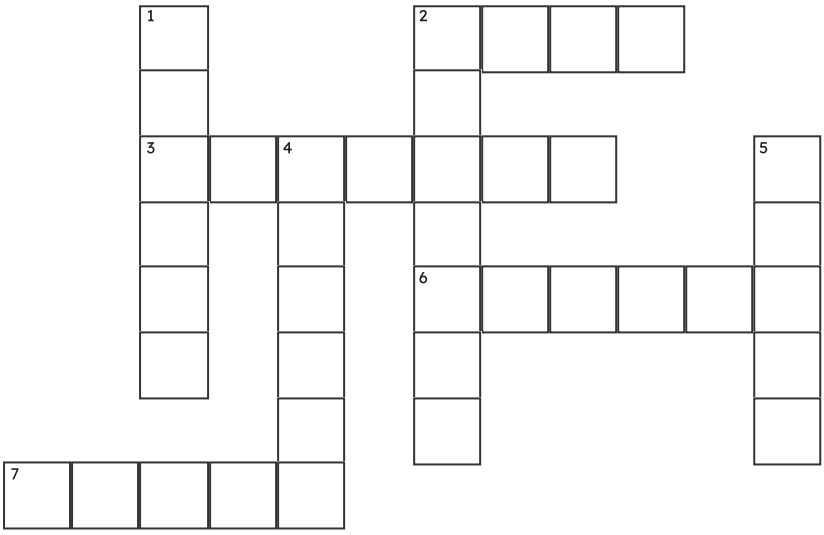
**rural:** related to the countryside

**empire:** group of colonies ruled by one country

**franchise:** the group of people allowed to vote

**Task B** /8

**Solve the crossword using words from the keywords and notes above.**




**Across**

2. black fuel dug from mines (4)
3. large building where machines make goods (7)
6. group of colonies ruled by Britain (6)
7. related to towns and cities (5)

**Down**

1. change to make voting fairer (6)
2. disease spread by dirty water (7)
4. soft fibre spun and woven in mills (6)
5. power from boiling water that drove engines (5)



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# Inventions In Order

Place key inventions and reforms on a timeline.

**Task C** /3

**Write the letter for each card next to the right date on the line.**

**A** E - First steam locomotive runs

**B** G - Great Reform Act gives new industrial towns their own MPs

**C** C - Water frame patented, using a water wheel to spin cotton

**1764** B - Spinning jenny lets one worker spin many threads at once

**1769** ☐ _____

**1785** D - Power loom patented for weaving cloth by machine

**1804** ☐ _____

**1829** F - Stephenson's Rocket shows the power of railways

**1832** ☐ _____



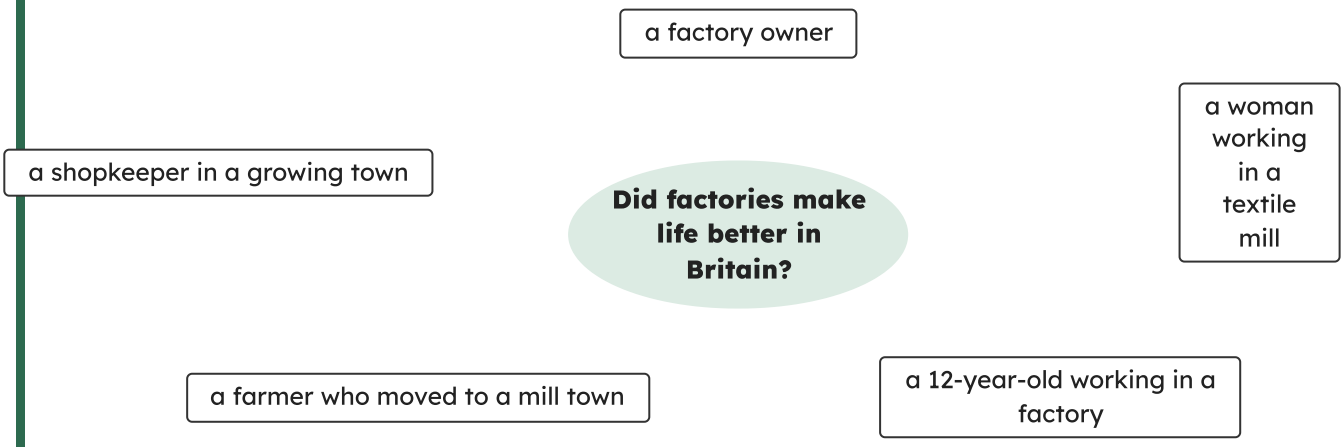
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# Who Gained Most?

See factory life from different points of view.

**Task D**

**Choose one viewpoint and write 4-5 sentences. Use evidence from page 1. Starter: As this person, I think factories were...**




**I am thinking of... from the viewpoint of...**

.....

**I think... (describe the topic from your viewpoint)**

.....

.....

.....

**A question I have from this viewpoint is...**

.....



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# The Industrial Revolution

## ↑↓ Task E

Example done for you

/4

**Place A–E on the line from farming Britain to industrial Britain by when each was most common.**




- **A** ~~Families live in crowded back-to-back houses~~
- **B** Most people farm in small villages
- **C** Cloth is woven by hand in cottages
- **D** New industrial towns elect their own MPs
- **E** Cotton is spun by steam power in factories

## ↑↓ Task F

Example done for you

/7

**Sort the word bank into village life before 1750 and town life after 1850.**

cholera | villages | cotton mills | cottages | back-to-back houses | farm work | steam power | ~~hand looms~~

| Before 1750: farming villages | After 1850: factory towns |
|---|---|
| hand looms | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

### How did I do?

Circle a face for each line.

I can explain why the Industrial Revolution started in Britain. ☹ 😐 ☺

I can describe how factories and towns changed daily life. ☹ 😐 ☺

I can judge how much changed for different people. ☹ 😐 ☺



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# Answer sheet: The Industrial Revolution

**Task A**

1. Farming / growing crops and keeping animals.
2. Coal.
3. At home / in cottages.
4. Textiles / cotton and wool.
5. People moved to towns to find work in mills and factories.
6. Cholera, typhoid, or breathing problems from smog.
7. It abolished them and gave new industrial towns their own MPs.

**Task B**

1 down: REFORM
2 down: CHOLERA
2 across: COAL
3 across: FACTORY
4 down: COTTON
5 down: STEAM
6 across: EMPIRE
7 across: URBAN

**Task C**

A: 1804 – E - First steam locomotive runs
B: 1832 – G - Great Reform Act gives new industrial towns their own MPs
C: 1769 – C - Water frame patented, using a water wheel to spin cotton

**Task D**

Answers will vary.

**Task E**

From farming Britain c.1750 to industrial Britain c.1900: B, C, E, A, D

**Task F**

Before 1750: farming villages: hand looms, cottages, villages, farm work
After 1850: factory towns: steam power, cotton mills, back-to-back houses, cholera

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