

# Industrial Revolution Knowledge Organiser

## Causes of the Industrial Revolution

- The **Industrial Revolution began in the 1760s** and Britain transformed **from small home based industries**, in which goods were primarily made by hand, **to new mass-produced goods in factories** using steam and water power.

The Industrial Revolution began in Britain for a number of reasons:

- Stable Economy** = Britain was not at war and had banks and businessmen that were willing to invest their money in new industries and factories
- Innovators and Entrepreneurs** = Britain had a number of people who were more open to new scientific ideas, which allowed them to build new technology (sped up Britain's development)
- Infrastructure** = Britain had a large network of canals, roads and ports to transport and sell these new goods.
- Resources** = Britain had a large number of natural resources that could be used to develop new industries e.g. coal, iron and copper.

## How did Britain change during the Industrial Revolution?

Factor	1750	1900
Population	11 million	40 million
People living in towns	20%	80%
Life Expectancy	Men 31 Women 33	Men 45 Women 48

## Conditions in the Cities

- For the rich factory owners, the industrial revolution meant they could afford grand new houses in the cities, with large rooms and expensive furniture.
- For the poor **who migrated to the cities for work**, there was limited housing, with some homes containing upwards of **10 or 12 people per room. Overpopulation was a serious problem.**
- Houses often had no indoor plumbing, water or heating**, and many people threw their rubbish into the street or behind their houses. This led to the spread of diseases such as **Cholera (a water borne disease), TB (contagious lung disease) and Typhoid (a bacterial infection).**
- A cholera outbreak in 1854 killed over 10,000 people.**
- The government's attitude to the problems in these new big cities was "**Laissez Faire**", which means to "leave alone". They thought it wasn't their business to get involved.



## Conditions in the Factories

- Factories were **very noisy, cramped and hot** places to work, especially cotton factories which had to stay warm to keep the cotton from breaking.
- This led to the spread of **lung diseases such as Byssinosis (irritation of the lungs caused by cotton dust).**
- The average **work day was 12-15 hours**, depending on the season.
- Due to tiredness and hunger, **accidents were common e.g. losing a limb due to the fast machinery.**



## Reform in the Factories

The Victorian Era has been called the "Age of Reform" because of the many laws the government passed to make people's lives better. For example:

- 1833 Factory Act = reduced working hours for children
- 1842 Miners Bill = prevents women and children working underground in the mines
- 1878 Workshop Holiday Act = allows workers to

## Political Reform: Chartism and Suffragettes

- In the early 1800s, only men who owned property over **the value of £100** had the right to vote.
- The Great Reform Act of 1832** gave the vote to men who owned property over the value of £10.
- The chartists were a group of men and women who fought for all men (but not women) to have the vote in the 1830s and 1840s. They were unsuccessful in changing the law.
- The Suffragettes were a women's groups in the late 1890s who fought for the right for women to vote. **Their leader was Emmeline Pankhurst.**
- Women over the age of 30 and all men** finally won the right to vote in **1918.**



## Reformers who helped improve the Cities

**Joseph Bazalgette** = engineer who designed a new sewage system in London in the 1860s. He designed **over a 1000 miles of sewers** which are still in use today. It **cost £4.2 million to build**. It immediately improved Public Health and diseases such as cholera were dramatically reduced.

**Sir Robert Peel** = In **1829** Sir Robert created the UK's first Police Force in London, **the Metropolitan Police Force, known as "Bobbies"**. This force helped people feel safer on the streets, where crime had been very common.

**Sarah Chapman** = **Trade Union Leader** who led the **1888 Match Stick Girls Strike** which protested against the use of white phosphorus in factories. Conditions for women were terrible, and led to diseases **such as "Phossy Jaw"**.



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Key word	Definition
Industrial Revolution	
Entrepreneurs	
Infrastructure	
Cholera	
TB	
Contagious	