

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:

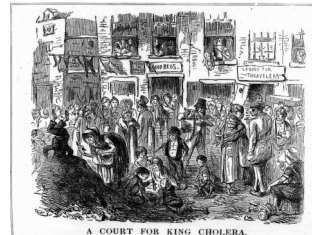
- Stable Economy** = Britain was not at war and had banks and businessmen that were willing to invest their money in new industries and factories
- Innovators and Entrepreneurs** = Britain had a number of people who were more open to new scientific ideas, which allowed them to build new technology (sped 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"**.



Industrial Revolution Knowledge Organiser



Key word	Definition
Industrial Revolution	
Entrepreneurs	
Infrastructure	
Cholera	
TB	
Contagious	