

SUBJECT: History

UNIT: What was ordinary life during the Industrial Revolution?



This unit builds upon the Y7 Curriculum, where pupils developed knowledge and understanding of ordinary life in Britain through time. This is the first of two units looking at 'Ideas, political power, industry and Empire 1745-1901' with a focus on technological, socioeconomic and cultural changes brought about by the Industrial Revolution.

Ambitious Vocabulary:

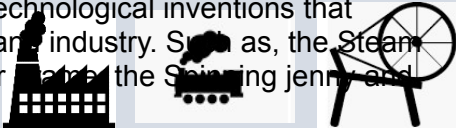
Revolution	a very important change in the way that people do things.
Technological	New machinery and equipment that has been developed using scientific knowledge, or processes.
Exploitation	The action or fact of treating someone unfairly, in order to benefit from their work.
Public Health	helping people to stay healthy and protecting them from threats to their health.

Change in a number of key areas:

Work – factories sprung up all over the country creating more efficient ways to produce goods such as wool, cotton and coal. The increase in factories brought thousands of new jobs.

Transport and communications – Factories needed access to raw materials, therefore the transport systems were created to make this process faster.

Technology - There were also many scientific discoveries and technological inventions that changed society and industry. Such as, the Steam Engine, the Water Frame, the Spinning jenny and the Locomotive.



Overcrowding: due to large numbers of people moving to the cities, there were not enough houses for all these people to live in.

Disease: typhus, typhoid, tuberculosis and cholera all existed in the cities of England. Overcrowding, low standard housing and poor quality water supplies all helped spread disease.

Waste disposal: gutters were filled with litter. Human waste was discharged directly into the sewers, which flowed straight into rivers.

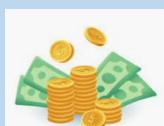
Poor quality housing: houses were built very close together so there was little light or fresh air inside them. They did not have running water and people found it difficult to keep clean.

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



How did towns create factories?

The new factories were like magnets. They pulled people into towns from the countryside – with the promise of regular work and good wages. Factory owners built houses for their workers to rent, and people began to set up shops and inns so the workers could buy food and drink.



Factory working conditions

Long working hours: normal shifts were usually 12-14 hours a day and sometimes even longer.

Low wages: Women and children were cheaper to employ than men so they were employed at a higher rate.

Cruel discipline: harsh rules were placed on people to make them work (linked to child labour).

Accidents: forcing children to crawl into dangerous, unguarded machinery led to many accidents and deaths.

Health: The air was full of dust, which led to chest and lung diseases and loud noise made by machines damaged workers' hearing.