

L.O: to find out what the industrial revolution was and how it changed Victorian Britain.

Industrial Revolution: **Cities**

Before the Industrial Revolution, **most British people (80%) lived in countryside areas** and their jobs were linked to farming or tending the land.

During Victorian times, lots and lots of people moved from the countryside into towns and cities. This was partly because:



- Farming machines were invented that could do the jobs people used to do. With these machines around, **there were fewer jobs for people in the countryside.**
- Lots of factories were being built in cities so **there were plenty of jobs on offer there.** These factories often included newly invented machines too, but these ones needed humans to operate them.

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Industrial Revolution: **Factories**

One of the reasons that so many factories were being built was the **development of steam power**. Steam power meant that machines could be faster, bigger and altogether more powerful. **Things that used to take a long time to make – like textiles – were suddenly quick to produce.**

During this time, the Victorian factories were producing so many goods that **Britain started to become very rich**. By 1870, Britain had more than 100,000 steam engines at work!

The steam engines needed coal to make them work. This meant that lots of workers – who were often children – had the job of going into dark mines to dig up coal.



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Industrial Revolution: **Steel**



Another major change was the **development of steel**. A Victorian called Henry Bessemer figured out a way to turn iron into steel. Producing steel quickly was really useful and it resulted in advancements in **building large machines as well as bridges and ships**. One very important consequence of this was that it allowed tracks to be built for a great new invention – the steam-powered **railway**.

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Industrial Revolution: **Landscape**

Think back to the 'before and after' pictures that we looked at in the starter activity. The **landscape of Britain changed massively during the industrial revolution**. For example:

- More people living in the cities meant that **lots of houses needed to be built**. They were often cramped and built very close together.
- So many people living together in cities caused unpleasant living conditions, **like dirty, smelly streets and the spread of diseases**.
- The factories and vehicles produced **smoke, making the air polluted and smelly**.
- Roads, canals and eventually railways needed to be built to transport goods between factories, often **cutting through fields or woodland**.
- Many people thought that the factory towers, machines and vehicles **were frightening or ugly to look at**.



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Task: create a non-fiction double page spread suitable for a Year 5 pupil to explain what the Industrial Revolution was and what impact it had on Victorian people.

You could include:

- Population,
- Landscape and cities,
- Factories,
- Steel production,
- The Arrival of the Railways – curriculum visions page 28 and 29,
- Positive and negative impacts.

Challenge: write a short paragraph answering:

How would life be different today if industrialisation had not taken place?