

The Industrial Revolution

Key people

Social Reformers

John Fielden

Fielden was a wealthy industrialist from Todmorden, responsible for the growth of the town throughout the 19th century. He was responsible for introducing the **10 Hours Act (1847)** which limited the amount of town children could work in factories

Robert Peel

Peel created and supported the **Factories Act (1844)** which restricted the number of hours that children could work in factories as well as setting safety standards for machinery

Seeböhm Roundtree

Rowntree was an English sociological researcher. He **researched people living in poverty** and argued that the government needed to do more to help them

Inventors

Isambard Kingdom Brunel

One of the most **influential engineers** of the Industrial Revolution. Brunel built railways and ships and opened up Britain to a new network of industry

John Snow

Snow was an English physician who discovered **that the water in his local area was making everyone ill**. His work led to the discovery of cholera and improved fresh water for thousands

Key terms

Industrial revolution

A time of great change in Britain between 1750 to 1900

Population

The number of people living in a particular place

Invention

Something new which is created, can be an object or an idea

Economy

The system of how money is used within a particular country

Agriculture

The process of producing food, and fibres by farming of certain plants or raising animals

Poverty

The lack of basic human needs such as clean water, nutrition, healthcare, education and shelter

Sanitation

Sanitation is the system that disposes of human waste

Industry

The process of making products by using machines and factories

Mass production

The production of many products in one go e.g. textiles

Key events

A time of great change

- **Agriculture** – New tools, fertilizers and harvesting techniques were introduced, resulting in increased productivity and agricultural prosperity.
- **Industry** – 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** - Thomas Telford built roads and canals in the 1700s and George Stephenson and Isambard Kingdom Brunel oversaw the 'Railway Mania' of the 1800s. There had previously been no very fast way of transporting goods and people around the country.
- **Technology** - There were also many scientific discoveries and technological inventions that changed society and industry. Changes to sanitation and medical treatment such as the work of John Snow and Edward Jenner improved people's quality of life.

Working in a factory

- **Long working hours:** normal shifts were usually 12-14 hours a day, with extra time required during busy periods.
- **Low wages:** a typical wage for male workers was about 15 shillings (75p) a week, but women and children were paid much less, with children three shillings (15p). For this reason, employers preferred to employ women and children.
- **Cruel discipline:** there was frequent "strapping" (hitting with a leather strap). Other punishments included nailing children's ears to the table, and dowsing them in water butts to keep them awake.
- **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.

Living conditions

- **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 human waste.

Timeline

