



Year 5

The Industrial Revolution Reading Booklet

Lesson Series

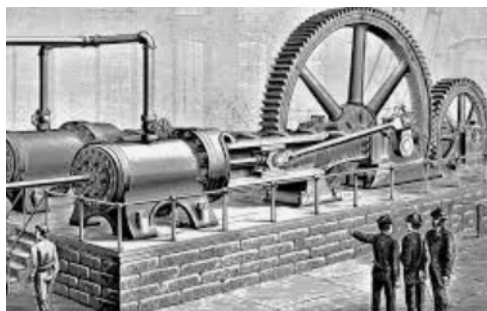
1. The Industrial Revolution
2. Cotton Production
3. Steam Engines and Trains
4. Iron and Coal
5. Children at Work

Name: _____

Class: _____

Lesson 1 - The Industrial Revolution

The key point to understand about the Industrial Revolution is that it had a transformative effect on the world. Through harnessing fossil fuels to power engines, factories and machines, the Industrial Revolution fundamentally changed the way that human beings live. This single innovation gave birth to the modern world. It is a topic of particular interest to Britain, as it was in Britain that the key inventions of the industrial revolution were first created: the cotton mill, the steam engine, and the train.



Lesson 2 - Cotton Production

Cotton thread was the first product in the world to be mass produced in factories. Today we take it for granted, but raw fluffy cotton used to have to be carded, spun, and woven by hand. This began to change in 1769 when a man named Richard Arkwright discovered how to use water to power cotton spinning, so that a machine could make thread. He later used power from steam engines, and built factories across Britain.

By 1830, steam engines were being used to weave cotton thread into textiles. This was an industrial breakthrough, as cotton textiles could be produced quickly and cheaply. In the 19th century, it is believed that Britain was producing around half of the world's cotton cloth. However, cotton was not grown in Britain. Most of the cotton used in Britain was imported from America and India, and much of it was grown by enslaved workers.

Lesson 3 - Steam Engines and Trains

The engines, trains, bridges, ships and tools of the industrial revolution were all made out of iron. During the 1700s, the blast furnace was developed to make large amounts of

cheap, strong iron. The blast furnace and steam engine required vast supplies of coal, and Britain was lucky to sit on some of the most abundant coalfields in the world. Thus, smelting iron and mining coal became vital parts of industrialisation.



Lesson 4 - Iron and Coal

Whilst studying the Industrial Revolution, it is important to understand how different discoveries and inventions all complemented each other, and together drove technological progress forward. The engines, trains, bridge, ships and tools of the industrial revolution were all made out of iron. During the 1700s, the blast furnace was developed to make large amounts of cheap, strong iron. The blast furnace and steam engine required vast supplies of coal, and Britain was lucky to sit on some of the most abundant coalfields in the world. Thus, smelting iron and mining coal became vital parts of industrialisation.

Lesson 5 - Children at Work

During the Industrial Revolution, poor children often worked full time jobs. There was nothing new about putting children to work, but the new dangers associated with industrial work, such as cotton mills and coal mines, meant that children suffered greatly.

It was necessary for many poor families to send their children to work in order to make enough money to keep them fed. Three of the worst jobs suffered by children were working as a scavenger in a cotton mill, working underground in a coal mine, or being a 'climbing-boy' for a chimney sweep. Each job could result in severe injuries, or even death.