

WORLD HISTORY READERS

Level 2 - ②

The Industrial Revolution

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Machines

We have so many machines in our lives: computers, televisions, planes, washing machines, smartphones... It is hard to imagine a world without these things.



A man on the phone in a car



A robot and a hand

This is the story of how these machines came into our lives.



A mother and daughter buying goods



A man outside his farm

Before the Industrial Revolution in the 18th and 19th centuries, people lived in small villages and grew their own food. Most people owned very few things—maybe just some clothes and a few tools.



Old farming tools

People made things at home. They made things by hand, and even simple objects took hours to complete.



Working the fields by hand



An English village

This all changed with the Industrial Revolution. The Industrial Revolution allowed people to leave the farms to work in factories in towns and cities. This gave people more money and allowed people to buy things. It created a consumer market.



Inside a typical village home

The Birth Place of the Industrial Revolution

The Industrial Revolution started in Britain because it had a lot of coal and iron. It was also a country which controlled large parts of the world at that time. This gave Britain a huge market to buy



An English sailing ship, 1857

from and a marketplace to sell the goods they made.



Coal used for fires



Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament, England

Great Inventions

This was a time for new inventions, new machines, and new ideas.

One of the first developments was a way to make clothes faster. For a very long time, people had to spin yarn to make clothes. Richard Arkwright designed and improved upon machines that could make cotton into yarn and save a lot of time.



Arkwright's machine for "carding" cotton into yarn



An early weaving loom for making cloth

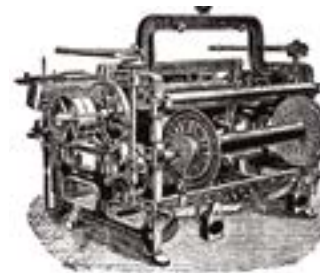


Richard Arkwright (1732-1792), whose inventions helped the Industrial Revolution



Yarn for making clothes

On his and other machines, cloth could be made quickly and easily. The process was three or four times faster than by hand. His inventions lead to the



The power loom allowed cloth to be made in big sheets.



The "Spinning Jenny"—a machine to make cloth

creation of factories and teams of workers working together.

But to do this, the machines needed power.

Comprehension Questions

1. The Industrial Revolution was mainly in the...
 - (a) 16th and 17th centuries.
 - (b) 17th and 18th centuries.
 - (c) 18th and 19th centuries.
 - (d) 19th and 20th centuries.
2. Before the Industrial Revolution, most people lived in...
 - (a) the countryside.
 - (b) towns.
 - (c) cities.
 - (d) factories.
3. The Industrial Revolution allowed people to leave the... and move to the...
 - (a) fields ... farms.
 - (b) farms ... fields.
 - (c) homes ... farms.
 - (d) farms ... cities.
4. Where did the Industrial Revolution begin?
 - (a) America
 - (b) Britain
 - (c) Africa
 - (d) Scotland
5. Before the revolution, people had to ... at home to make clothes.
 - (a) spin yarn
 - (b) design machines
 - (c) make cotton
 - (d) All of the above
6. To run the machines in the factories, the machines needed...
 - (a) devices.
 - (b) power.
 - (c) steel.
 - (d) wheels.
7. What was used to make iron and steel?
 - (a) Cotton
 - (b) Yarn
 - (c) Coal
 - (d) Wind
8. During the Industrial Revolution, people built...
 - (a) ships, cars, and roads.
 - (b) bridges, railroads and trains.
 - (c) steam engines and cars.
 - (d) roads and windmills.
9. The Industrial Revolution was good for...
 - (a) farms.
 - (b) the rich.
 - (c) the poor.
 - (d) the healthy.
10. Work in the factories was often...
 - (a) healthy.
 - (b) poor.
 - (c) dangerous.
 - (d) good.

Glossary

- **coal** a hard, black mineral burned for fuel, heat, etc.
- **development** the process of making something new
- **effective** done well and efficiently
- **factory** a building or group of buildings where things are made
- **Industrial Revolution** the period of time during which work began to be done more by machines in factories than by hand at home
- **invention** something designed or made for the first time
- **iron** a common, hard metal found in the ground
- **last** to continue to happen or be for a period of time
- **railroad** the metal tracks that trains travel on
- **spin** to make thread or yarn from wool, cotton, etc.
- **steam engine** a machine that produces motion which is run by heated water
- **steel** a very strong metal made from iron, used for making machines, knives, etc.
- **tool** a device used to make things or do something
- **yarn** string or thread used to make clothes

Key 1. (c) 2. (a) 3. (d) 4. (b) 5. (a) 6. (b) 7. (c) 8. (b) 9. (b) 10. (c)