

The Industrial Revolution

The 1800s was a time of 'Industrial Revolution'.

The main changes were:

- by 1914, England had become a great trading nation with a worldwide empire, which covered a fifth of the globe
- a 260 per cent growth in population
- a change from agriculture to industry
- a move from domestic industry to factory work
- a move from water and wind power to steam engines
- a revolution in transport and communications, from canals and pack horses, to railways and the telegraph

The growth of towns:

In 1750, only about 15 per cent of the population lived in towns. By 1900 it was 85 per cent. This meant that there were far more people around to work in new industries but also caused problems because many more people needed foods and homes. This meant that poverty was increasing.

By 1900, London had 4.5 million inhabitants. The biggest other towns were Glasgow with 760,000 inhabitants and Liverpool with 685,000. Manchester and Birmingham had more than half a million people each. Much of the population had moved from the South-East to the industrialised coalfield areas in the North and the Midlands.



George Stephenson was a self-made mechanical engineer, largely credited with building the first railway line and becoming the 'father of the railways'. His rail gauge of 4 ft 8.5 inches became the global standard gauge. He also developed a miners safety lamp.

The famous engineer, **Isambard Kingdom Brunel**, played a key role in Britain's industrial revolution, designing and constructing railway lines, bridges, tunnels and docks around the country, as well as providing massive advances in naval architecture

Key Terms

Back-to-back housing—Rows of houses built very close together without room for a garden.

Entrepreneur—A business person who takes risks in order to make money.

Factory—A building where products are made by machines.

Industrialisation—The development of industries so there are more factories etc.

Industry—The production of raw materials into manufactured goods for a profit.

Living conditions—the state that people live in. This includes housing, wages, access to clean water etc.

Navy—A worker employed to build roads, railways or canals.

Revolution—A radical and fast change

Spinning machines—machines that made clothes, they were often steam powered.

1000 - 1483

Medieval England

Norman - Angevin - Plantagenet

1500 - 1750

Early Modern England

Renaissance - Tudor - Stuart

1750 - 1900 Modern Britain

Industrial Revolution
Hannovarian

1900 - 2000

20th Century Britain

Great War - WWII - Cold War