

# The Industrial Revolution

The Industrial Revolution took place in Britain from the late 1700s to the late 1800s. It is named the Industrial Revolution because it was a time that many people in Britain stopped farming and started working in factories.

## What Was Life like before the Industrial Revolution?



Before the Industrial Revolution, many people in Britain lived on farms. This was where they looked after animals and grew their own food.

The fastest way to get anywhere was by horse and cart and most people lived in small villages.



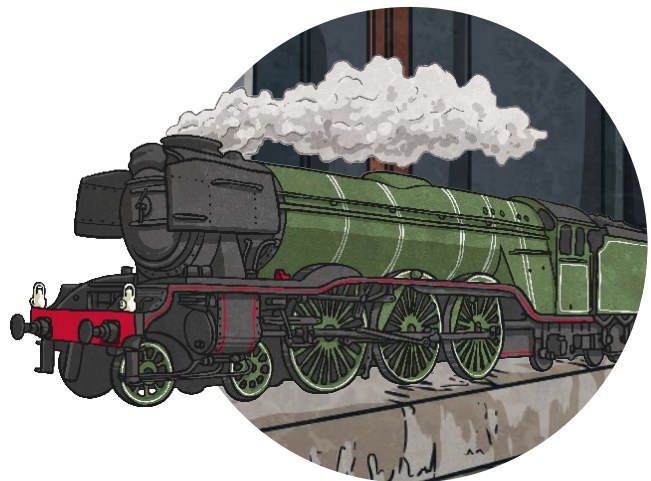
Crafts, such as making pots and cloth, were completed by hand.

## What Made the Industrial Revolution so Successful?

There were lots of different things that happened in Britain during the Industrial Revolution. Because of this, historians believe that there are many different reasons for the Industrial Revolution being so successful.

Firstly, lots of new inventions were created which started to make life easier in Britain. One example of this is that James Watt perfected the design of the steam engine – a machine engine which used coal as a fuel. Before the steam engine, machines had relied on water power and could only be built in towns near a water source. Not having to worry about water meant that factories could now be built all over the country.

People started to build more canals, railways and roads. With new, faster steam trains, it was a lot easier and quicker to move around the country. By 1880, a trip from London to Manchester now took only four hours. In 1700, the same trip would have taken four days!



## Important Inventions

As well as the steam engine, there were lots of other important inventions during the Industrial Revolution.

**1764** - The spinning jenny was invented.

This was a machine that was much quicker than a person at turning cotton into cloth.

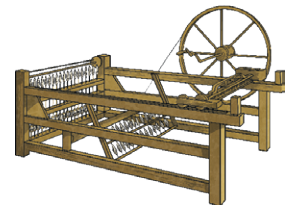
**1863** - The first route on the London Underground was built.

**1885** - Karl Benz invented the first motor car.



## Did You Know...?

Nobody knows how the spinning jenny gained its name. Some people think that the word 'jenny' sounds a bit like the word 'engine'. Others think that Jenny might have been the name of the inventor's wife or daughter.



## What Was Life like during the Industrial Revolution?

People's everyday lives changed during the Industrial Revolution. Before the steam engine, most goods were made by hand. Now, lots of things were being made by giant machines. As a result, many large factories were built and people started working in dirty, noisy and dangerous conditions. Even children as young as five years old were expected to work in the factories. Lots of people had moved into towns to work. This meant that towns were often really busy and would be filled with smoke. Factory owners built cheap houses which were often very close together and rarely had running water.

## Rights for Child Workers

Young children who worked in factories often had to work in very dangerous conditions. Because of this, the government introduced a Factory Act in 1833. This meant that any child who worked in a factory had to be given two hours of schooling each day. It also stated that children under the age of nine were not allowed to work in factories.

By the late 1800s, lots of Britain's goods were now made in large factories. Soon, the invention of the telephone and other modern-day items would lead Britain into a technological revolution.

# Questions

1. Who invented the first motor car? Tick one.

- ☐ James Watt
- ☐ Jenny
- ☐ Karl Benz
- ☐ Factory Act

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they occurred.

- ☐ The government introduces the factory act.
- ☐ The fastest way to get around is by horse and cart.
- ☐ Getting from London to Manchester takes four hours.
- ☐ The first motorised car is invented.

3. Why could factories only be built near water before the invention of the steam engine?

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4. Fill in the missing words.

Factories were built and people started working in \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_ conditions.

5. Look at the section headed, **What Made the Industrial Revolution so Successful?**  
Find and copy the phrase which tells you that James Watt didn't invent  
the steam engine by himself.

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6. **Even children as young as five years old were expected to work in factories.**

Do you think that this was fair? Explain your answer.

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7. **By 1880, a trip from London to Manchester now took only four hours.**

Why do you think that this was seen as a positive thing?

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8. Would you like to have been alive during the Industrial Revolution?

Explain your answer.

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# Answers

1. Who invented the first motor car? Tick one.

- ☐ James Watt
- ☐ Jenny
- ☒ **Karl Benz**
- ☐ Factory Act

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they occurred.

- 2** The government introduces the factory act.
- 1** The fastest way to get around is by horse and cart.
- 3** Getting from London to Manchester takes four hours.
- 4** The first motorised car is invented.

3. Why could factories only be built near water before the invention of the steam engine?

**Before the invention of the steam engine, factories could only be built near water because they relied on water power.**

4. Fill in the missing words.

Factories were built and people started working in **dirty, noisy** and **dangerous** conditions.

5. Look at the section headed, **What Made the Industrial Revolution so Successful?**

Find and copy the phrase which tells you that James Watt didn't invent the steam engine by himself.

**perfected the design**

6. **Even children as young as five years old were expected to work in factories.**

Do you think that this was fair? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I don't think that it was fair because the factories were really dangerous places for adults so they would be even more dangerous for small children.**

7. **By 1880, a trip from London to Manchester now took only four hours.**

Why do you think that this was seen as a positive thing?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that this was seen as a positive thing because people could now travel to different places and move to new areas instead of being stuck in the same place for their whole lives.**

8. Would you like to have been alive during the Industrial Revolution?

Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I would not have liked to have been alive during the Industrial Revolution because I would have had to work in a dangerous factory and I don't want to work; I want to go to school instead.**



# The Industrial Revolution

The Industrial Revolution took place in Britain from the late 1700s to the late 1800s. It is named the Industrial Revolution because it saw people in Britain moving away from farming and agriculture and towards industrial factory work.

## What Was Life like before the Industrial Revolution?



Before the Industrial Revolution, many people in Britain lived on farms; they would raise their own livestock and grow their own food.

The fastest way to get anywhere was in a horse-drawn cart and only a small amount of people lived in large towns.

In addition to this, crafts, such as making pots and cloth, were completed within people's homes.

## What Made the Industrial Revolution so Successful?

Because the Industrial Revolution marked a period in history in which lots of things changed, historians find it difficult to name one specific moment which started the revolution. Instead, several factors led to Britain's rapid change.

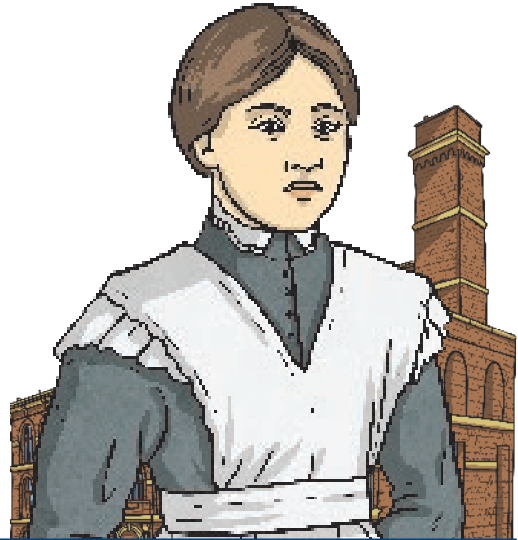
Firstly, several key inventions led to many tasks suddenly becoming much easier. For example, James Watt perfected the design of the steam engine – a machine engine which used coal as a fuel – to make it more efficient. Before the steam engine, machines had to rely on water power; this meant that they could only be built in towns near water. As a result of the steam engine's invention, factories could now be built all over the country.

People started to develop canals, railways and roads. With new, faster steam trains and more transport links, it was a lot easier and faster to move around the country. By 1880, a trip from London to Manchester, which would have taken four days in 1700, now took only four hours! This also meant that goods, such as textiles and coal, could be transported across the country quicker than ever before.

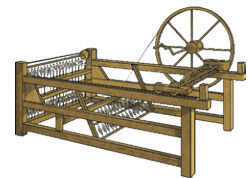


## Important Inventions

Alongside the steam engine, there were a number of other key inventions during the Industrial Revolution. In 1764, the spinning jenny was invented: it was a machine that made it much quicker to weave cotton into cloth (compared to a person completing the task by hand). In 1863, the first route on the London Underground was built and, by 1885, Karl Benz had invented the first motorised car.



There is still much debate as to how the spinning jenny gained its name. Some people think that the word 'jenny' sounds a bit like the word 'engine'. Others think that Jenny might have been the name of the inventor's wife or daughter.



## What Was Life like during the Industrial Revolution?

Everyday life in Britain changed dramatically during the Industrial Revolution. Before the introduction of the steam engine, most goods were made by hand. However, the introduction of steam power now made it possible to invent machines which were much faster at working than people could be. As a result, large factories were built to house giant machines and people moved from working at home to working long shifts in dirty, noisy and dangerous conditions.

During this time, there were fewer laws to protect children; this meant that children as young as five years old would be sent to work. People were no longer living in small rural communities; the majority now lived in large, industrialised towns. These towns were often overcrowded and were filled with pollution from nearby factories. To accommodate the growing population, houses were constructed quickly and with cheap materials; many were built without running water or proper sanitation.





### Rights for Child Workers

Young children who worked in factories were often subjected to terrible and dangerous conditions. To combat this, the government introduced a Factory Act in 1833 which made it compulsory for every child working within a factory to receive two hours of schooling each day. The act also stated that children under the age of nine were not allowed to work in factories and that all children were forbidden from working at night. Although children were now receiving an education, children between the ages of nine and thirteen were still allowed to work up to nine hours per day.

By the late 1800s, revolutionary inventions had helped Britain to become an industrialised country. Soon, the invention of the telephone and the introduction of a widespread sewer system would lead Britain into a new era of technological revolution.



# Questions

1. When did the government stop children from working at night? Tick one.

- ☐ 1764
- ☐ 1833
- ☐ 1863
- ☐ 1865

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they occurred.

- ☐ Getting from London to Manchester takes four days.
- ☐ Britain moved into the technological revolution.
- ☐ Children are given two hours of schooling each day.
- ☐ The spinning jenny is invented.

3. What fuel did the steam engine require?

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4. Look at the paragraph beginning **Firstly, several...**

Find and copy one word which shows that the inventions were important.

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5. Why did it become easier to move around the country?

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6. Imagine that you are living during the Industrial Revolution.

Describe one of your daily activities.

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7. Do you think that the government's Factory Act was a positive thing?

Explain your answer.

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8. How was life before the Industrial Revolution different to life after the Industrial Revolution?

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9. Do you think that the Industrial Revolution was good for Britain?

Explain your answer.

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# Answers

1. When did the government stop children from working at night? Tick one.

- ☐ 1764  
☒ **1833**  
☐ 1863  
☐ 1865

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they occurred.

- 1** Getting from London to Manchester takes four days.  
**4** Britain moved into the technological revolution.  
**3** Children are given two hours of schooling each day.  
**2** The spinning jenny is invented.

3. What fuel did the steam engine require?

**The steam engine required coal as fuel.**

4. Look at the paragraph beginning **Firstly, several...**

Find and copy one word which shows that the inventions were important.

**key**

5. Why did it become easier to move around the country?

**It became easier to move around the country because there were more transport links (such as canals, railways and roads) and there were new, faster steam trains.**

6. Imagine that you are living during the Industrial Revolution.

Describe one of your daily activities.

**Pupils' own responses provided that the answer makes reference to information within the text, such as: One of my daily activities would be going to work in a dangerous factory because, even though I am only nine years old, children are expected to work.**

7. Do you think that the government's Factory Act was a positive thing?

Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the government's Factory Act was a positive thing because it protected children from having to work at night and it made sure that they went to school for two hours per day.**

8. How was life before the Industrial Revolution different to life after the Industrial Revolution?

**Pupils' own responses provided that the answer makes reference to information within the text, such as: Life before the Industrial Revolution was quiet because many people lived on farms. When the Industrial Revolution started, people began living closer to one another and working in noisy factories instead.**

9. Do you think that the Industrial Revolution was good for Britain?

Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I don't think that the Industrial Revolution was good for Britain because people were not treated very well and they had to live in terrible conditions where there was pollution and no running water.**

# The Industrial Revolution

The Industrial Revolution was a period in Britain's history which took place from the late 1700s to the late 1800s. During this time, Britain found itself rapidly moving from a predominantly agricultural way of life to one which was far more industrialised.

## What Was Life like before the Industrial Revolution?

Prior to the Industrial Revolution, most people in Britain lived on farms; they raised their own livestock and grew their own produce.

The fastest mode of transportation was by horse-drawn cart and only a small percentage of the population lived in large towns.

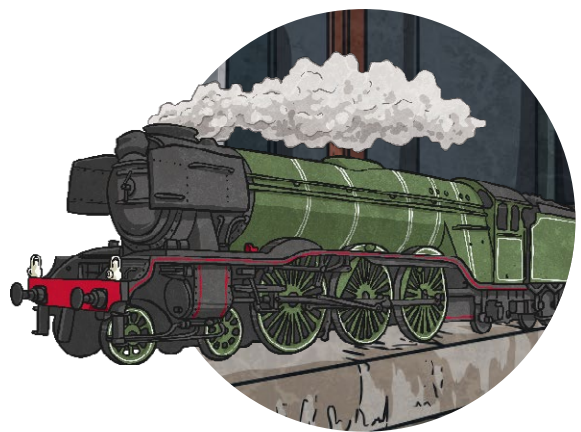
In addition to this, crafts, such as pottery and weaving, were completed at home by individuals and families.



## What Made the Industrial Revolution so Successful?

While many historians debate the exact reasons for the success of the Industrial Revolution, there were several defining factors. Firstly, several key inventions were created during this period which led to many tasks suddenly becoming a lot easier. For example, James Watt perfected the previous work of Thomas Newcomen to create an efficient steam engine. Previously, machines had relied on water power therefore they could only be built near bodies of water. Now, with the new steam engine fuelled by coal, factories could be built all over the country.

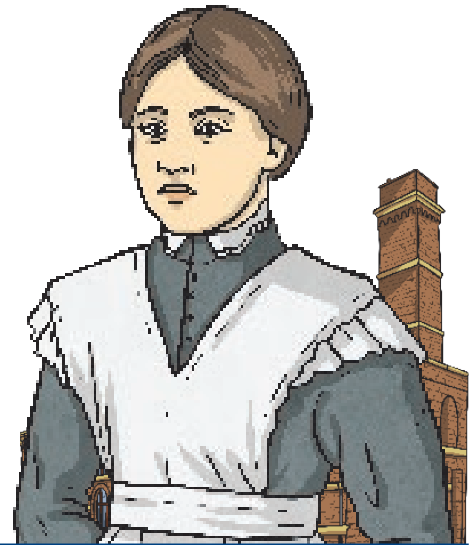
Furthermore, canals, railways and roads were developed. Due to the vast improvement in transport links, a trip from London to Manchester (which would have taken four days in 1700) took only four hours by 1880! This also meant that produce, textiles and coal could now be transported across the country at a far greater speed.



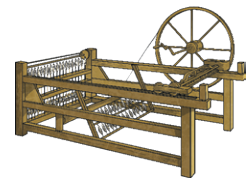


## Important Inventions

Alongside the steam engine, there were a number of other key inventions during the Industrial Revolution. In 1764, the spinning jenny was invented. It was a machine that weaved cotton into cloth far quicker than a person could manage to do so on their own. To further transport links, the first route on the London Underground was built in 1863 and, by 1885, Karl Benz had invented the first motorised car.



The origin of the name of the spinning jenny is unknown but has led to much speculation. Some people believe that the inventor had a family member named Jenny who inspired the invention. Others have guessed that 'jenny' was a slang term for an engine or generator.



## What Was Life like during the Industrial Revolution?

Everyday life in Britain changed dramatically during the Industrial Revolution. Before the steam engine, most goods were made by hand. However, the introduction of steam power now made it possible to invent machines which were much faster at working than people were. As a result, large factories were built and people moved from working at home to working long shifts in dirty, noisy and dangerous conditions.

During this time, there were fewer laws to protect people and children as young as five years old would be sent to work in factories. People were no longer living in small rural communities. Instead, the majority now lived in large, industrialised towns. These towns were often overcrowded and were filled with pollution from the nearby factories. To afford their workers somewhere to live, factory owners built cheap houses; these were often very close together and rarely had running water.





### Rights for Child Workers

Young children who worked in factories were often subjected to incredibly dangerous conditions. Because of this, the government introduced a Factory Act in 1833. This act said that any child working in a factory had to be given two hours of schooling each day. The act also stated that children under the age of nine were not allowed to work in a factory and that all children were forbidden from working at night. Although children were now receiving an education, children between the ages of nine and thirteen were still allowed to work up to nine hours per day.

By the late 1800s, the steam engine meant that lots of Britain's goods were now made in large factories. Soon, the invention of the telephone and the introduction of a widespread sewer system would lead Britain into a new era of technological revolution.

# Questions

1. Draw four lines to match each event with the impact it had on Britain.

There was a vast improvement  
in transport links.

James Watt perfected  
the design of the steam engine.

The spinning jenny  
was invented.

The government introduced  
a Factory Act.

Factories could now be built in  
places away from water.

Cotton could now be  
turned into cloth far quicker.

Children who worked in factories  
were given two hours of schooling.

Produce could be transported across  
the country at a far greater speed.

2. During the Industrial Revolution, why did houses have to be built so quickly? Tick one.

- ☐ because the builders were needed for other jobs
- ☐ because there were lots more people needing houses
- ☐ because children were now working in the factories
- ☐ because giant factories were being built over the old houses

3. Look at the first paragraph.

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'mainly'.

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4. Name one factor which led to the Industrial Revolution's success.

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5. Fill in the missing words.

Children between the ages of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ could work  
for up to nine hours per day.

6. The government's Factory Act gave working children two hours of schooling each day.

Do you think that this was fair?

Explain your answer.

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7. During the Industrial Revolution, many jobs that were usually completed by people began to be completed by machines instead. How do you think this made people feel?

Explain your answer.

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8. Would you like to have lived during the Industrial Revolution? Tick one.

Yes ☐

No ☐

Explain your answer fully using references from the text.

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9. What similarities are there between life during the Industrial Revolution and life today?

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10. Explain how the government's Factory Act could have changed to further improve the lives of children.

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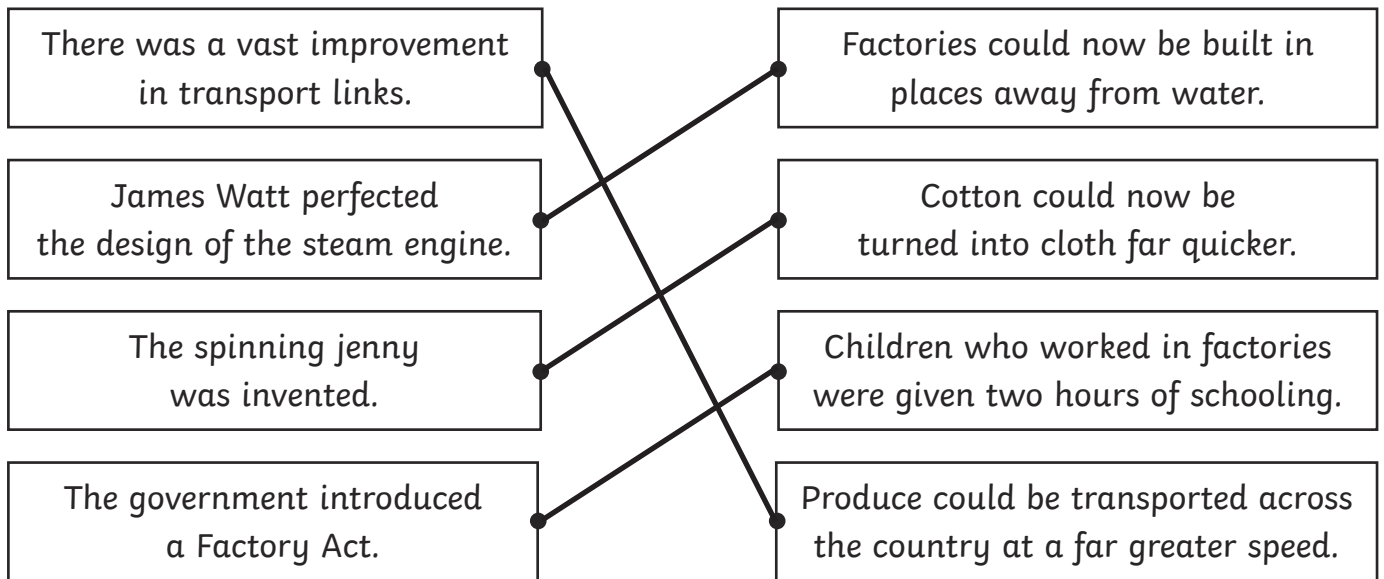
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# Answers

1. Draw four lines to match each event with the impact it had on Britain.



2. During the Industrial Revolution, why did houses have to be built so quickly? Tick one.

- ☐ because the builders were needed for other jobs
- ☒ **because there were lots more people needing houses**
- ☐ because children were now working in the factories
- ☐ because giant factories were being built over the old houses

3. Look at the first paragraph.

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'mainly'.

**predominantly**

4. Name one factor which led to the Industrial Revolution's success.

**Accept one of the following: James Watt perfected the steam engine; canals, railways and roads were developed; there was a vast improvement in transport links.**

5. Fill in the missing words.

Children between the ages of **nine** and **thirteen** could work for up to nine hours per day.

6. The government's Factory Act gave working children two hours of schooling each day. Do you think that this was fair? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I do not think this was fair because the children still had to work for the rest of the day. It would have been fairer to give the children a full day of schooling and not expect them to work in a factory.**



7. During the Industrial Revolution, many jobs that were usually completed by people began to be completed by machines instead. How do you think this made people feel?

Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses such as: I think that this would have made people feel worried that there was not going to be any work left for them because they were going to be replaced by a machine.**

8. Would you like to have lived during the Industrial Revolution? Tick one.

Explain your answer fully using references from the text.

**Accept either 'yes' or 'no' as an answer, providing that a full explanation is also given, such as: No, I would not have liked to have lived during the Industrial Revolution because I enjoy school too much and I would not have liked to work in a dirty and dangerous factory.**

9. What similarities are there between life during the Industrial Revolution and life today?

**Pupils' own responses provided that a valid similarity has been given, such as: During the Industrial Revolution, lots of houses needed to be built because there were more people living in the towns. There are still lots of new houses being built today because towns are still growing.**

10. Explain how the government's Factory Act could have changed to further improve the lives of children.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the government's Factory Act could have further improved the lives of children by saying that even children who didn't work in factories could have education. It could also have said that children did not have to work in factories if they did not want to.**