

The Industrial Revolution: Changing the Way We Work

Before the Industrial Revolution: (1)

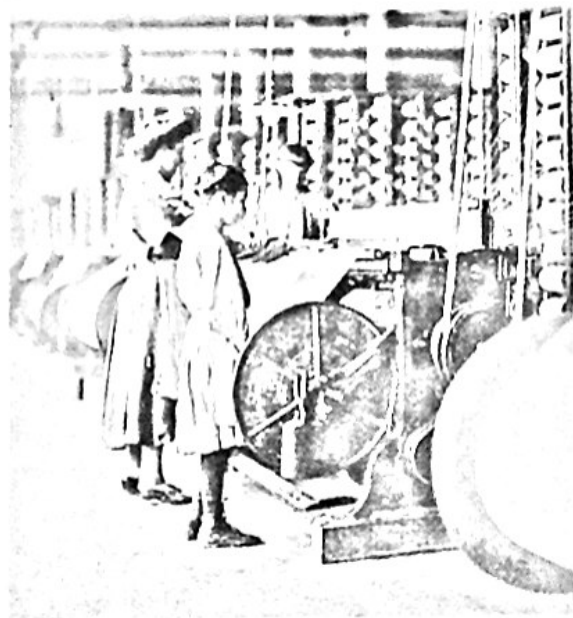
Before the Industrial Revolution, most Americans lived on farms or in villages and produced goods that they needed for daily life themselves. They also produced goods such as food, cloth, clothes, and shoes for local markets. American villages as well as the few cities contained skilled craftsmen or artisans who worked in small shops. The master artisans controlled their own working conditions and owned their own tools.



Textile Factory in Massachusetts

The Factory System (2)

During the Industrial Revolution, this way of life changed. The factory system (using machinery and workers for different tasks) replaced the skilled craftsman and became the way that goods were produced. This change in the way that goods were made (from craftsman in villages to factories in towns) is called the Industrial Revolution. This caused huge changes in society and the economy as machines replaced hand tools and craftsman. The word "industry" means the creation of goods using machines in factories. Because goods were made in factories using machines, they could be made faster and in larger numbers than before. Machines needed people to run them, so factories required large numbers of workers.



Where Did This Happen? (3)

As you know from your unit on the colonies, agriculture was not very profitable in New England. While shipping had been profitable in the past, due to limits on trade at the time, New England needed a new way to make money. This new idea of industry seemed like a perfect fit. The first industry in New England was the cloth industry, also known as textiles. Americans actually stole the plans for the factory from the British!

(4) One of the first large textile factories was in Lowell, Massachusetts in the early 1800s. The factory in Lowell attracted workers from around the state who were in search of jobs. Many of these workers were women who were sent away or who volunteered to leave to make money for their families. As more factories were built, more people left their homes on farms to move near the factories. Soon, so many people moved near the factories that towns began springing up around the factories! Entire towns were based around the work provided by the factories. By the 1840s, around 10,000 women had left their families, farms, and villages to move to the factories. This movement of people from farms and small villages to these factories became known as the Farm to Factory Movement because people were leaving their farms and villages to move near factories for work.

Life at the Factory (5)

The work at the Lowell factory was dull and boring. The workers had to work in dark, hot, noisy rooms. The machinery was so loud that it actually made some workers deaf. The lack of fresh air in the factories even caused workers to suffer from diseases such as brown lung. They also had to work long hours with very few breaks. The machines that the workers operated were dangerous as well. Workers were injured often. Some even lost fingers.



Sources for Text:

"Workers on the Line Activity Guide" Tsongas Industrial History Center, University of Massachusetts Lowell: http://www.uml.edu/Tsongas/Curriculum_Materials/Curriculum_Packets/WOL.pdf

Sources for Photos:

Photo 1: <http://www.ou.edu/class/arch4443/index.html>

Photo 2: Department of Commerce and Labor: Children's Bureau, <http://teachingamericanhistorymd.net/>

Photo 3: Department of Commerce and Labor: Children's Bureau, <http://teachingamericanhistorymd.net/>

Interactive Reading Guide for Industrial Revolution Reading

Directions: Please follow the different directions below to answer the questions. For some questions, you will be working alone. For other questions, you will be working with your partner. Facing the board, the partner on the left will be "Craftsman" and the partner on the right will be "Factory Worker." Be sure to let your partner finish reading before you answer each question.

1. **Partners:** Read the first paragraph to yourselves and decide on an answer to the following question together:

- a) How were goods made and where were they made before the Industrial Revolution?

2. **Partners:** Read the second paragraph to yourselves and decide on an answer to the following questions together:

- a) What is the factory system?

- b) What does the word "industry" mean?

3. **Craftsman:** Read paragraph 3 aloud to Factory Worker.

Factory Worker: Listen to Craftsman and decide how to answer the following question:

- a) Where did industry begin in the United States?

4. **Partners:** Read paragraph 4 to yourselves and decide on an answer to the following questions together:

- a) Who made up most of the workers?

b) What is the Farm to Factory Movement and why is it called that?

5. Factory Worker: Read paragraph 5 aloud to Craftsman.

Craftsman: Listen to Factory Worker and decide how to answer the following question:

a) What were the working conditions like for the factory workers?

6. Partners: Look at the next page for an image of a textile factory. Study the factory on your own and together, answer the following questions.

a) What powered the factory? Where does this mean these factories needed to be located?