

# The Industrial Revolution

## Why did the population grow during the Industrial Revolution?

In 1798 a vicar called Thomas Malthus wrote *An Essay on the Principle of Population*. He forecast war, disease and famine if the number of people continued to grow. In fact, in the past there had always been a 'population ceiling' beyond which numbers could not grow. But by 1800 Malthus's ideas were no longer correct, the British population continued growing. It reached 21 million in 1851, and 37 million by 1901.

Nobody knows why the population grew, but historians have made many suggestions. Some of these are listed below.

- 1. Agricultural changes**  
Changes in farming in the 18<sup>th</sup> century helped farmers produce more food - notably milk and vegetables.
- 2. Changes in fashion**  
After 1750 people started to wear cotton, instead of woollen underwear. Cotton was easier to wash.
- 3. Climate changes**  
After 1750 the weather began to get warmer which helped farmers.
- 4. Medical changes**  
In the 18<sup>th</sup> century there were improvements in midwifery and the care of pregnant women.
- 5. Vaccination**  
Vaccination was discovered in 1796. People who were vaccinated against smallpox were immune to the disease.
- 6. Behavioural changes**  
After 1700 people married earlier and fewer people stayed unmarried.
- 7. Personal hygiene**  
After 1790 soap was easily available and cheaper.
- 8. Cultural changes**  
At the start of the 18<sup>th</sup> century there was a craze for gin drinking. This died out when the government began taxing it in 1751. Gin can damage unborn babies.
- 9. Government action**  
The Public Health Acts in 1848 and 1875 improved housing and public health in towns.
- 10. Environmental changes**  
At the start of the 18<sup>th</sup> century many marshes were drained, this killed the mosquitoes so less people got malaria.
- 11. Factories**  
After 1780 more children were employed in the factories. Children were useful because they earned a wage.

1. Categorise these changes into ones that will have increased the birth rate (B) and changes that will have decreased the death rate (D).
2. Explain how each of these reasons (1-11) would lead to increased population growth.
3. What do you think was the main cause of population growth? Explain

From a description of Manchester by French traveller Alexis de Tocqueville in 1835

A sort of black smoke covers the city. Under this half-daylight 300,000 human beings are ceaselessly at work. The homes of the poor are scattered haphazard around the factories. From this filthy sewer pure gold flows. In Manchester civilised man is turned back almost into a savage.

From the *Report from the Select Committee on the Health of Towns*, 1840

The backs of the houses in one court are built against the backs of the houses in the next court; at the further end there is generally an ash-pit between two privies; they are in the most abominable state of filth ... The stench arising from these causes ... render it almost impossible to remain for any time.

From *The Condition of the Working Class in England*, Friedrich Engels, 1845

The dwellings in the narrow courts and alleys between the streets, entered by covered passages between the houses, in which the filth and tottering ruin surpass all description. Scarcely a whole window-pane can be found, the walls are crumbling, door-posts and window-frames loose and broken, doors of old boards nailed together, or altogether wanting in this thieves' quarter, where no doors are needed, there being nothing to steal.

### Task 1

Using the source material above and your own knowledge, jot down as many things as you can that you might see or experience in an industrial town from 1750-1900, such as rats, open sewers and deadly diseases such as cholera.

### Task 2

You are now going to use your ideas to design a brochure for a theme park showing what life was really like in an industrial town 1750-1900. Health and safety is not an issue! Pick **five** conditions of life in an industrial town from your notes above, and write down ideas for theme park rides or attractions that could be created out of them. Remember to be creative, while at the same time relating your ideas to your historical knowledge.

Draw a table like this one and fill in information for your chosen industrial town condition:


Industrial town condition	Ideas for attraction
Example cholera	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• water pump lottery</li><li>• water slide ride</li><li>• avoiding the 'dead rats' in a murky river of sludge and slime on a rapids ride</li></ul>

### Task 3

You now need to pick your **three** best ideas and create an advertisement for each attraction to go into your brochure. You need to support your choice of attractions with your knowledge and understanding of industrial town life. Each attraction should have:

- a title to show what visitors to your park can expect from your attraction
- a picture of your attraction
- a description of your attraction - use your historical knowledge and to try to make it sound exciting!
- an explanation of what it shows us about life in an industrial town c.1750-1900.

#### Example:

	<p><b>Catch the Cholera! - a water pump lucky dip</b></p> <p>Take a sip from the deadly pump if you dare. It may look clean, but what is lurking in the water that you cannot see? After just one sip, you may catch a horrible disease. You see, the sewage water often contaminates the drinking water, with devastating consequences! And if you don't catch the very painful cholera, there is every chance that you could contract typhoid, another horrible disease!</p> <p>This sort of disease was very common, especially in cities like London, and was responsible for killing many thousands of people. Our water pump lucky dip lets you experience the lottery of drinking water in an industrial town or city!</p>
--	---