

World Studies Industrial Revolution

Informational Essay

After reading informational documents, write an essay in which you explain the positive and negative impact of the Industrial Revolution in Britain. Support your discussion with evidence from at least four of the five documents provided and prior knowledge. Please do not write on the documents.

Document 1: The Industrial Revolution in Great Britain About 1830

Document 2: “Tremendous Sacrifice”

Document 3: Testimony of Child Labor in England

Document 4: British Industry 1775-1815

Document 5: “Victorian Medicine - From Fluke to Theory”

Document 1: The Industrial Revolution in Great Britain About 1830



Source: Beers, *World History: Patterns of Civilization*, 1983 (adapted)

Document 2: "Tremendous Sacrifice"



Source: Cruikshank, George, "Tremendous Sacrifice," Picture Magazine, reprinted November 1893.

Document 3: Testimony of Child Labor in England

"The smallest child in the factories were scavengers.....they go under the machine, while it is going.....it is very dangerous when they first come, but they become used to it."

Charles Aberdeen worked in a Manchester cotton factory, written in 1832.

"The task first allotted to Robert Blincoe was to pick up the loose cotton, that fell upon the floor. Apparently nothing could be easier.....although he was much terrified by the whirling motion and noise of the machinery and the dust with which he was half suffocated.....he soon felt sick and was constantly stooping; his back ached. Blincoe took the liberty to sit down. But this he soon found was strictly forbidden in cotton mills. His overlooker, Mr. Smith, told him he must keep on his legs. This he did for six and a half hours without a break."

John Brown, a reporter for "The Lion". Written in 1828.

"We went to the mill at five in the morning. We worked until dinner time and then to nine or ten at night; on Saturday it could be till eleven and often till twelve at night. We were sent to clean the machinery on the Sunday."

Man interviewed in 1849 who had worked in a mill as a child.

"Woodward and other overlookers used to beat me with pieces of thick leather straps made supple by oil, and having an iron buckle at the end, drew blood almost every time it was applied."

John Brown quoted in the "Lion" newspaper in 1828.

"Sarah Golding was poorly and so she stopped her machine. James Birch, the overlooker, knocked her to the floor. She got up as well as she could. He knocked her down again. Then she was carried to her house.....she was found dead in her bed. There was another girl called Mary.....she knocked her food can to the floor. The master, Mr. Newton, kicked her and caused her to wear away till she died....The overlookers used to cut off the hair of any girl caught talking to a lad. This head shaving was a dreadful punishment. We were more afraid of it than any other punishment for girls are proud of their hair."

An interview in 1849 with an unknown woman who worked in a cotton factory as a child.

"When I was seven years old I went to work at Mr Marshall's factory at Shrewsbury. If a child became sleepy, the overlooker touches the child on the shoulder and says "come here". In the corner of the room there is an iron cistern filled with water. He takes the boy by the legs and dips him in the cistern, and then sends him back to work."

Jonathan Downe interviewed in June 1832.

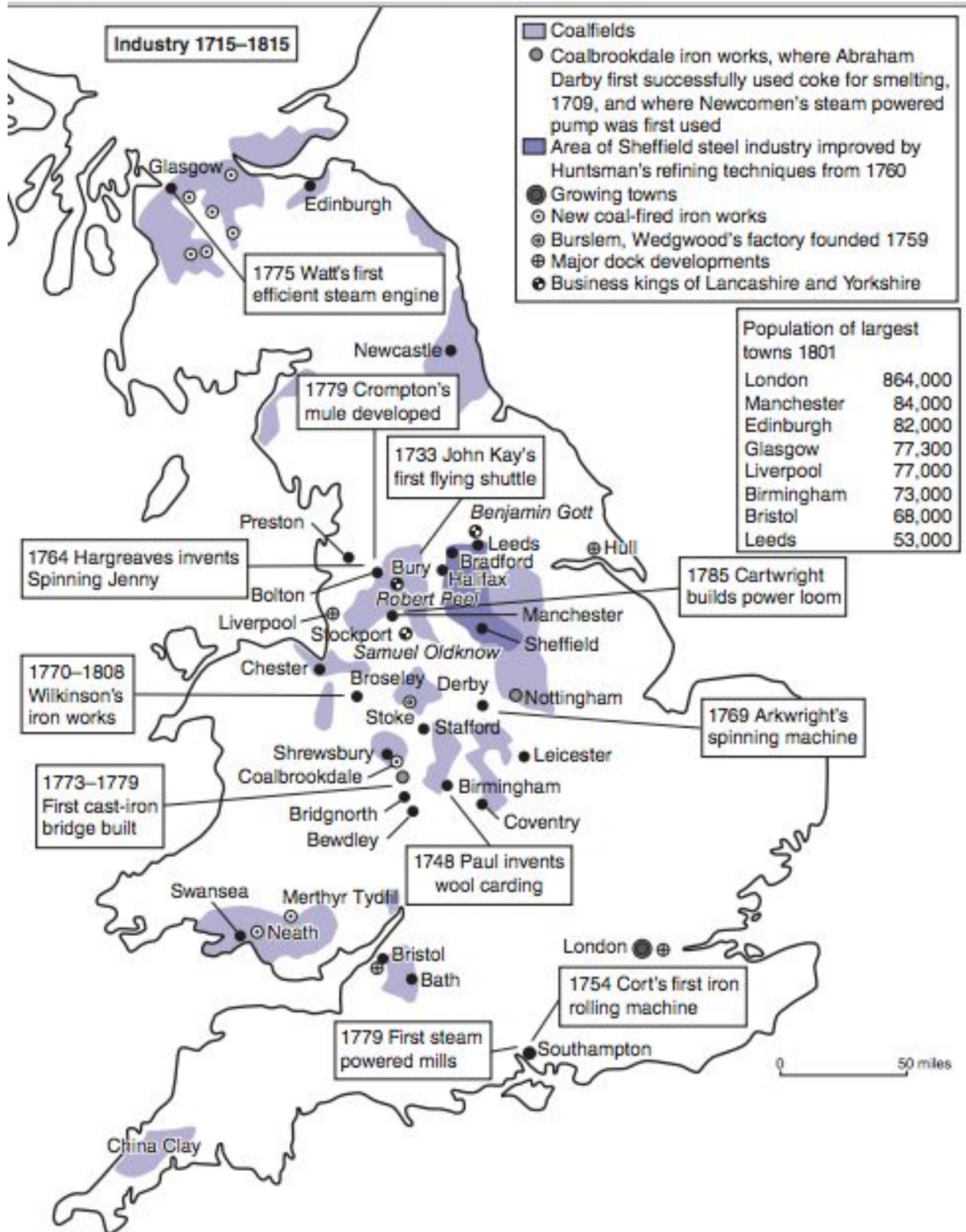
"I have seen my master, Luke Taylor, with a horse whip standing outside the mill when the children have come too late.....he lashed them all the way to the mill."

John Fairbrother, an overlooker, interviewed in 1819.

Source: "Children in the Industrial Revolution - History Learning Site." 2008. 15 Sep. 2014.

<http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/children_industrial_revolution.htm>

Document 4: British Industry 1715-1815



Document 5: "Victorian Medicine - From Fluke to Theory"

It may be harsh to say so, but to the modern eye medical practice in the early 1800s looks pretty medieval...Yet a century later medicine would be available in a form easily recognisable to anybody today: hospitals, stethoscopes, white coats and x-rays. What happened?

Two things. Together, cities and science forced real progress in both prevention and cure. The Industrial Revolution was in full flow, and the invention of the steam engine meant that factories could go anywhere, not just near natural power sources. They went to the towns and cities. At a time when Britain's population was increasing rapidly (from six million in 1750 to nine million 50 years later), cities were expanding even faster as now redundant farmworkers migrated to the nearest town to find work...

This growth had enormous consequences. Death rates were high, and far worse in cities than in the countryside. Smallpox, typhus and tuberculosis were endemic, and cholera alarmingly epidemic. Overcrowding combined with poor sanitation and often grinding poverty to leave many people vulnerable to the latest outbreak of anything nasty...

[A] breakthrough came with the cholera epidemic of 1854. John Snow had experienced previous outbreaks in 1832 and 1848, and was convinced that it was a water-borne disease. This time he provided conclusive proof by mapping out the cases in Soho, central London, implicating a single, contaminated well. The epidemic subsided soon after the pump's handle was removed. Snow also analysed cholera's incidence in water that was bought from different suppliers, demonstrating that households buying from companies drawing water from the Thames downstream - after many sewers had flowed in - suffered a deathrate 14 times greater than those buying water from companies drawing upstream. Following on from this research, he recommended boiling water before use.

Progress in this area was being matched by scientific breakthroughs in both diagnosis and cure. The stethoscope - invented in 1817 - was being widely used in Britain by mid-century, and microscopes had improved sufficiently to allow examination of micro-organisms. The practice of surgery also modernised with the invention of anaesthesia in the late 1840s. Although ether was initially used, chloroform soon became the anaesthetic of choice.

Louis Pasteur's work from the late 1850s proved that the souring of milk was caused by living organisms and, by verifying the 'germ theory', changed pathology and surgery forever. Pasteur's work led ultimately to the introduction of antiseptic procedures into surgery via Joseph Lister. Infections and deaths fell sharply and, combined with anaesthesia, enabled surgeons to operate more slowly, carefully and confidently on patients, in turn reaping new discoveries.

However, it doesn't do to exaggerate. Death rates had decreased, but only marginally, from 20.8 per thousand in 1850 to 18.2 in 1900...Yet advances in public health, science and institutions had taken medicine into grounds of expertise and professionalism few would have expected 50 years earlier. You'd be a lot happier going to the doctor in 1900 than in 1800.

Source: "BBC - History - British History in depth: Victorian Medicine - From Fluke to Theory" 2006. 10 Oct. 2014. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/victorians/victorian_medicine_01.shtml>