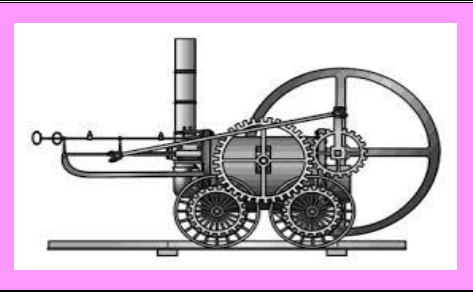# Topic: The Industrial Revolution (1750-1900)

The first unit in Year 8 focuses on one of the most important turning points in British history – the *Industrial Revolution* – which saw a population explosion coupled with mass-migration to the towns, entrepreneurism and new technology like the invention of the steam engine. Great Britain became the world's first industrialised nation and British innovation created both wealth at home and raised Britain's status and influence oversees. However, this radical change in the way British people lived and worked was traumatic for many of those involved and it was not without conflict or bloodshed. By 1900 Britain had seen tremendous social and political change, including the regulation of working conditions and reform in education, justice and public health.

Timeline of the Industrial Revolution:

Year	Event
1771	Richard Arkwright opens world's first factory at Cromford Mill, Derbyshire
1801	Richard Trevithick drives world's first 'horseless carriage' up Camborne Hill
1811+	Luddite attacks break-up factory machinery across the north of England
1815	Sir Humphry Davy (from Penzance) invents the Miner's Safety Lamp
1816	George Stephenson patents a steam railway locomotive called the *Rocket!*
1832	The first cholera epidemic begins in Sunderland (then 1848, 1854 & 1866)
1833	Parliament passes first Factory Act to regulate child labour in textile mills
1834	The Poor Law Amendment Act creates the Victorian Workhouse system
1842	Mines & Collieries Act prohibits underground work for all females and boys
1848	First Public Health Act sets up General Board of Health for sanitation advice
1851	Prince Albert launches the Great Exhibition based in Hyde Park, London
1858	The Great Stink (on the River Thames) leads to further Public Health reform
1870	First compulsory Education Act in the UK sets up local school boards
1875	The second Public Health Act enforces local sanitary reform across the UK
1893	Wheal Owles tin mining accident near St. Just in West Cornwall (13 deaths)
1909	Burns Pit coal mining accident - West Stanley in County Durham (168 dead)

People of the Industrial Revolution:

Person	Description
Richard Arkwright	'Father of Factory System' and inventor of the water frame
Joseph Bazalgette	Engineer – designed/built the London sewage system (1865)
Isembard Kingdom Brunel	Great Railway Engineer – tunnels & bridges / SS Great Britain
Edwin Chadwick	Civil servant whose report (1842) led to Public Health reform
Humphry Davy	Scientist, poet and inventor of the Miner's Safety Lamp
Millicent Fawcett	Leader of the Suffragist movement for women's equality
Edward Jenner	Pioneering country doctor – first use of 'vaccination' - smallpox
Joseph Lister	Surgeon - first to use carbolic as anti-septic to prevent infection
George Mellor	Luddite protester hanged for the murder of William Horsefall
Robert Owen	Factory & social reformer – founder of co-operative movement
Louis Pasteur	French scientist - proved that germs float in the air/cause decay
John Snow	Doctor – proved link between infected water & cholera (1854)
Viscount Townshend	Norfolk farmer who led agricultural revolution – crop rotation
Richard Trevithick	Engineer & inventor of 'Horseless Carriage' / steam locomotive
Jethro Tull	Inventor of the seed drill which mechanized farming / planting
James Watt	Scottish engineer who improved Newcomen's steam pumping engine

Industrial Revolution Key Words:

Key Word	Definition
Agriculture	Farming of crops and animals - work in the countryside
Chartists	Working-class campaigners for political reform (votes)
Cholera	Violent de-hydrating disease – epidemics killed thousands
Chokedamp	Suffocating carbon monoxide gas - found in coal mines
Colliery	Another word used to describe a coal mine or coal 'pit'
Cotton Mill	A phrase used to describe a factory that produces textiles
Entrepreneur	Businessman who takes risks / speculates to make money
Factory	Large building with machines used for mass-production
Firedamp	Explosive sulphur dioxide gas – found in coal mines
Hard Rock Mining	Cornish mining (through rock) – primarily for tin & copper
Industrial Revolution	Big change in the way people lived & worked C18/C19
Luddite	Violent protesters who broke up new factory machinery
Migration	Mass-movement of people, e.g. from the countryside to the towns
Public Health	Health of the general public – a phrase often used by Governments
Sanitation	System to supply clean water and remove foul water / sewage
Spinning machine	Machine that spins yarn / thread, e.g. Arkwright's water frame
Steam Engine	Versatile machine which can be adapted for industry and transport
Suffragists	Women who campaigned for gender equality and votes for ladies
Transportation	Send criminals to America/Australia (punishment instead of prison)
Trapper	Child worker in a coal mine (see also - drawer, winder and carrier)
Urbanisation	When small towns grow rapidly into cities following mass migration
Weaving machine	Machine that weaves yarn into cloth, e.g. John Kay's flying shuttle
Wheal	From the Cornish word 'huel' which means a hole, pit or mine
Workhouse	Building where the old, sick, unemployed and destitute were sent