

Cause & Effect

Impacts of The Industrial Revolution

While the Industrial Revolution was responsible for a number of positive changes for people, it also caused many problems for the people of Britain.

It changed where people lived. Before the Industrial Revolution, most people lived in the countryside. Because jobs moved from rural areas to the cities, so too did people. The sudden and significant increase in the population of cities was one of these problems. Houses were small and overcrowding was very common. Living in such close quarters caused sanitary problems. At the time there was no sewage system, which meant people would dispose of their waste on the streets and into rivers. Diseases spread easily. Smoke from factories, engines and fireplaces polluted the air around the cities. The waste from factories was also regularly dumped into rivers.

Working conditions were very poor. One of the reasons for this was that there were so many people looking for jobs. This meant workers were easily replaced if they dared complain. People worked long hours and in dirty and dangerous conditions. Many workers lost limbs and some even died while working. Workers had to put up with equipment that expelled smoke and as a result, many suffered from breathing problems. It was also common for children to work in order to help bring in money for their family.



The Industrial Revolution ended around the middle of 19th century.

Find five cause-and-effect relationships from the text and show them below.

cause (why?)	→	effect (what happened?)
cause	→	effect
cause	→	effect
cause	→	effect
cause	→	effect

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Answers may vary.

