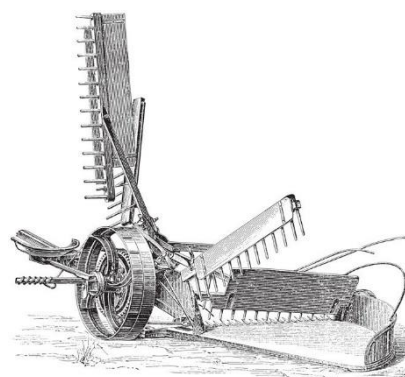


# The Industrial Revolution

The Industrial Revolution began in Great Britain during the middle of the 18th century. It was a period of great change. Before the Industrial Revolution, goods were made in small workshops or even homes. Most people in Britain lived outside of the cities and towns. Many people worked as farmers or craftspeople in rural areas.

## Farming

Farmers began to use machines more and more to help with tasks such as picking cotton and planting seeds. Jobs that took a long time were now able to be completed much quicker and without the need for so many workers. Because of the new machines, farms produced a greater amount of food and other crops. But they also meant that fewer people were needed for farming jobs.

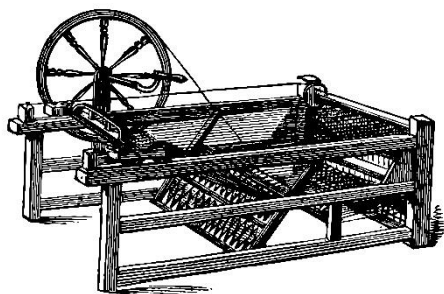


*Reapers helped harvest crops*

## Factories and Machinery

New machines were invented which allowed more goods to be produced more quickly than ever before. Factories were needed in which to operate these machines and to produce goods in such large quantities. Workers who crafted such goods by

hand could not produce goods quickly enough and so many people were left without jobs. Because of this, many people left the countryside and moved to towns and cities to look for work in one of the many new factories. The population of these cities grew extremely quickly.



*The 'spinning jenny' made making cloth easier and faster*

## Steam Engine

The invention of the steam engine was the most important invention to emerge from the Industrial Revolution. Prior to its invention, power was generated by water, wind, horse and by people. The steam engine provided a more reliable power source, and one which could power these new machines that were being designed.



*Many workers were needed to operate the new machines*

## Impacts

The Industrial Revolution was responsible for a number of positive changes for people, but it also caused many problems.

The large increase in the number of people now living in cities was one of these problems. Houses were small and overcrowding was very common. It was difficult for people to stay clean and so diseases spread easily. Smoke from factories, engines and fireplaces polluted the air around the cities. The waste from factories was dumped into rivers.

Working conditions were very poor. People worked long hours and in dirty and dangerous conditions. Many workers were badly injured, and some lost their lives. Many suffered from breathing problems. It was also common for children to be forced into labour.

The Industrial Revolution ended around the middle of 19<sup>th</sup> century.