

The Industrial Revolution: DOUBLE HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

Your job is to:

- 1. Decide whether the evidence shows it was a Blessing or a Curse and explain WHY in the box provided. If you believe it was both than fill in BOTH boxes.**
- 2. Decide if you believe the Industrial Revolution was a blessing or a curse.**
- 3. Use three of these factors to compose your argument and complete HW #11.**

1. A World Destroyed

Before the Industrial Revolution, most people were born, lived and died in the same place; among people they knew and saw one another every day. The community was strong because people helped each other get food and shelter. No one grew fat or starved alone. Life was simple and peaceful. Nature determined people's lives. For example, the sun and seasons measured time. Local people carried out laws. After the Industrial Revolution, people moved to large cities and these kinds of communities faded away.

This evidence shows it was a Blessing...	This evidence shows it was a Curse...

2. Rapid Urbanization

As factories sprang up, cities formed around them. Urban populations grew so quickly that proper housing could not be built for the newcomers seeking employment. Whole families lived in one or two tiny rooms. Multilevel tenements (small worker housing) were built so closely together that the area quickly became a slum. Open sewers bordered streets. Factory smoke polluted the air. Large towns were desperately unhealthy, with levels of death at a level not seen since the Black Death (plague).

This evidence shows it was a Blessing...	This evidence shows it was a Curse...

3. STATISTICS FROM ENGLAND 1750-1900

	1750	1900		
POPULATION	7 MILLION	37 MILLION		
PEOPLE LIVING IN TOWNS	13%	87%		
LIFE EXPECTANCY	MEN 31	WOMEN 33	MEN 45	WOMEN 48
DEATHS AT BIRTH	65%	15%		

This evidence shows it was a Blessing...	This evidence shows it was a Curse...

4. Transportation

The railways did just change the way goods were transported and the way people traveled about the country. Instead of traveling on mail coaches, people started to travel by train, which was not only cheaper but also faster. The new trains meant that for the first time, even poor people could travel long distances. Some east coast villages grew into large seaside resorts because 'of the railway. The speed at which trains could travel also changed the food that people could eat. Fresh eggs, milk and fish could be carried into the new industrial towns.

This evidence shows it was a Blessing...	This evidence shows it was a Curse...

5. Working Conditions *Such Slavery, Such Cruelty*

Some of the bosses hired thousands of men, women, and children. In the cotton-spinning trade, these people work fourteen hours a day. They are kept locked up, summer and winter, in a heat of 80 to 84 degrees. The poor people have no cool room to retreat to. They do not have a moment to wipe off their sweat, nor a breath of air. The door of the place where they work is locked. The workers are not allowed to send for water to drink.

This evidence shows it was a Blessing...	This evidence shows it was a Curse...

6. New products (commodities)

The new products that came about as a result of the industrial revolution were not luxuries, but necessities (goods needed to live). By the 1870's the cotton and woollens were purchased by the masses (lots-of people). Some of the products of the factories were sent overseas. In return they received sugar, grain, coffee, and tea. The coal from the mines, helped warm many homes and cook many meals.

This evidence shows it was a Blessing...	This evidence shows it was a Curse...

7. Economist Paul Samuelson: Some Benefits of Industrialization

I believe in materialism. I believe in all the benefits of a healthy materialism. Benefits of the Industrial Revolution were good cooking, dry houses, dry feet, sewers, drain pipes, hot water, and electric lights. Benefits like automobiles, good roads, bright streets, long vacations away from familiar scenes, new ideas, fast horses, swift conversation, theaters, operas, and orchestras.

This evidence shows it was a Blessing...	This evidence shows it was a Curse...

8. Writer Oscar Wilde saw technology as a tool for cultural progress:

The fact is, civilization requires slaves ... Unless there are slaves to do the ugly, horrible, uninteresting work, culture and contemplation become almost impossible. Human slavery is wrong, insecure, and demoralizing. *Machines can put an end to human slavery.* On mechanical slavery (factories), on the slavery of the machine, the future of the world depends.

This evidence shows it was a Blessing...	This evidence shows it was a Curse...

9. An Interview from a report on Child Labor to the House of Commons

Were the children beaten?

Yes.

With what?

A strap; ... sometimes he got a chain and chained them, and strapped them from all down the room ...

Were the children excessively fatigued at the time?

Yes, it was in the afternoon

Suppose you had not been on time in the morning at those mills, what would have been the consequence? :

We would have been quartered.

What do you mean by that?

If you were a quarter hour late, they would take off a half an hour (of their pay) ...

This evidence shows it was a Blessing...	This evidence shows it was a Curse...