

## History Knowledge Organiser: Britain 1700-1900

### Industrial change

- Before the Industrial Revolution most men were farmers, but women and children also worked from home. This was called the 'domestic system', these people used a spinning wheel to turn wool into cloth and they worked whenever it suited them.
- The factory system changed all this. Many people left their villages to go work in factories called mills. Water-power was used to power the machines, this meant that the machines and workers could work non-stop. Women and children worked in the factories as well as the men and they were cheap to employ. The factory owners were able to make huge profits.

### Child workers

Some of the factory children were orphans as the owners agreed to clothe and feed them. Other child workers were the sons and daughters of poor families

Children were employed in factories because:

- The machines were automatic so children were able to run them.
- Children were paid less than adults so factory owners employed lots of them.
- Children were able to crawl under the machines to fix broken threads, replace bobbins and clean away dust.

### Railways

The development of steam power and the invention of steam locomotives led to industrial changes

- Steam trains made travel quicker and cheaper. In 1836 it took 46 hours to travel from London to Edinburgh by stage coach: it took 12¼ hours by train in 1850.
- The whole country began to use the same time (so that train timetables could be used)
- They changed how people ate- fresh food could reach all over the country.
- This created jobs and led the coal and iron industries to grow. BUT this was at the expense of canals and stage-coaches.

### People's lives

#### **Industrial Towns**

- **Pollution:** By the 1860s nearly all workshops and factories were powered by coal-burning steam engines. The tall chimneys puffed out smoke all day, every day. Coal was also used for heating houses and for cooking. This household smoke made the air pollution even worse.
- **Overcrowding:** So many people moved to the towns that there were not enough houses. Builders and landlords, who were keen to make large profits, built thousands of new houses but they crowded as many people in as possible and often used the cheapest building materials. Rents were high so whole families lived in a single room.
- **Population-** The population grew from around 4 million in 1701 to over 35 million in 1901. This was partly because more children were born and fewer died. This led to overcrowding and poor living conditions, more food was needed, the rich got richer but more of the poor worked in towns/cities for low wages.

#### **Seaside towns**

- In 1800, few people had holidays. Workers were only given a day off for religious holy days e.g. Christmas Day and Easter Sunday.
- By 1850 things had started to change, as people worked shorter hours than ever before, they found themselves at home earlier in the evenings and off work on Saturday afternoons as well as Sundays.
- In 1871, Parliament introduced Bank Holidays, giving workers a few more days off throughout the year.
- All over the country, the coming of the railways brought seaside resorts within the reach of ordinary people. London was the biggest city in the world: When the London-Brighton railway opened in 1841, millions of people were suddenly only two hours' train ride away from the seaside. For the first time, the 'day tripper' appeared in Brighton.

### Crime and punishment

#### **Highway robbery**

Highway robbery involved threatening or attacking travellers and forcing them to hand over their valuable possessions. It became more common in the 18<sup>th</sup> century for a number of reasons:

- Increase in trade and wealth.
- Isolated country roads.
- More travellers with valuable goods.

It then decreased because:

- The death penalty was introduced for anyone found armed and in disguise on a high road.
- Mounted patrols on major roads in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- The growth of the banking system meant that there was less need for people to carry large sums of money.

#### **Police**

- The Bow Street Runners were the first organised crime-fighting team. By 1785, the Bow Street Runners were officially paid by the government and were the first modern detective force.
- In 1829 the Metropolitan Police was set up in London by John Peel- the first paid full-time police force.

#### **Pentonville Prison**

- Pentonville Prison was built in 1842 as a prototype where the 'separate system' could be tested. Under this system, prisoners were kept apart as much as possible. They lived in separate cells and stayed there for up to 23 hours a day.
- Every aspect of the new prison was designed to support the separate system. The building had five wings with a base for staff in the central area each wing was made up of dozens of individual cells.
- The cells had a floor area of 4m by 2m. There was a small high window at the end to allow some natural daylight in. The window had thick glass and were fixed with iron bars. Each cell had piped water, a small basin and a basic toilet. This improved the health and living conditions of the prisoner, but also ensured they had limited chances to see or speak to other inmates, as they had no reasons to leave their cells.