

## The Industrial Revolution in Great Britain

You have to find out about the Industrial Revolution for homework. On the Internet you find this article.

Although the steam engine had already been invented<sup>1</sup> by James Watt in 1769 and the Industrial Revolution had already begun, until 1800 Britain had changed little in centuries. It was a rural<sup>2</sup> country. Most people lived in villages and were farmhands who needed animals that were much stronger to help them with their daily work. Horses or cows moved things from one place to another or pulled<sup>3</sup> big wheels. The wheels pumped<sup>4</sup> water that was needed to move heavier stone wheels to make flour out of corn<sup>5</sup>. Most of the time people stayed in their villages. Only sometimes did they travel to the nearest market town to go shopping.

But when James Watt's monopoly<sup>6</sup> on the steam engine was lifted<sup>7</sup>, life in Britain – and soon in other parts of the world – changed. With 'modern' technology people were now able to work in the fields twenty times faster than before. That meant that fewer farmhands were needed, and many people lost their jobs. They then moved into towns and cities and found jobs in factories that had been built. They made clothes, iron<sup>8</sup>, and later ships and trains. As a result, cities like Manchester, Sheffield and Glasgow quickly became bigger.

With the opening of the Stockton and Darlington Railway<sup>9</sup> in 1825 and the Liverpool and Manchester Railway five years later, travelling became much easier and faster; and horses were no longer the fastest moving thing on earth. People and raw materials could now be taken from one place to another in hours rather than<sup>10</sup> in days. By 1851 6,800 miles of track had been laid. This made travel time shorter, things cheaper and brought people from different parts of Britain together.

### Did you know?

As there weren't enough people, children had to work, too. They had to do the same dangerous<sup>11</sup> work as their parents, and they often did jobs which you had to be small for, for example cleaning the engines. These children never went to school. They never learned how to write a letter or read a book. Later this was changed and children were no longer allowed to work in factories.

<sup>1</sup>to invent – *erfinden*; <sup>2</sup>rural – *ländlich*; <sup>3</sup>to pull – *ziehen, antreiben*; <sup>4</sup>to pump – *pumpen*; <sup>5</sup>corn – *Getreide*; <sup>6</sup>monopoly – *Monopol*; <sup>7</sup>to lift – *aufheben*; <sup>8</sup>iron – *Eisen*; <sup>9</sup>railway – *Zugstrecke, Linie*; <sup>10</sup>rather than – *statt*; <sup>11</sup>dangerous – *gefährlich*

Read the text. Tick (v) the correct answer.

	right	wrong
1. The Industrial Revolution happened in the 18th and 19th century because people needed more work.		
2. Until the beginning of the 19th century many people lived in villages, worked on farms and didn't travel very often.		
3. The Industrial Revolution started in Great Britain and then happened in other countries, too.		
4. The invention of the steam engine changed people's way of life.		
5. More and more farms were built and people liked to work there because they were paid more money.		
6. Children had to work, too, because there weren't enough people to do all the different jobs.		
7. In the 19th century there were a lot of people that could not read or write because they had never gone to school.		
8. Things got more expensive because new technology and factories were expensive, many people needed to get paid and things needed to be taken across Britain.		

These pictures can be seen in the picture gallery on the website.  
*Read the text. Write a title for each of them.*

