

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Industrial Revolution

**Directions:** Read the passage about the Industrial Revolution. On page two, write details from the passage that are important in explaining the Industrial Revolution. Name something you use daily that is a direct benefit of the Industrial revolution.

### **The Industrial Revolution**

The Industrial Revolution began in England during the late 18th and early 19th centuries, changing the life of ordinary people forever. It was a time of numerous inventions, causing industry to develop very quickly.

Before the Industrial Revolution, life for most people in England was agricultural; many people lived a farming and rural lifestyle. Communications and travel were limited. Manufacturing was done in homes. Power was obtained by natural means, such as windmills. Life was hard, and people worked hard. Education was not available for many ordinary people.

However, there were major developments and inventions in agriculture, manufacture and travel that eventually spread throughout Europe and North America.

Manufacturing that was once all done by hand could now be done faster by machine. It started with the textile industry (Hargreaves' spinning jenny) and spread to other areas of industry. Factories were built and steam powered machinery increased the manufacture. Enormous amounts of coal had to be burned to make enough steam to power the machines. Increased products meant that more goods needed to be transported. This brought about the building of canals, roads and railways.

Towards the middle of the 19th century, steam-powered ships and railways allowed for faster progress. Later in the century, electricity and the development of the internal combustion engine increased the pace at which goods were manufactured and transported.

The effects of all this rapid change on society was enormous. More and more people left the rural communities and went to towns and cities to work in factories. The growth of the towns couldn't keep up with the number of people pouring into them, and so housing was hard to get and people lived in dirty, ramshackle slums in appalling circumstances. Children were used in labor. It was a tough life.

But from the Industrial Revolution came many inventions and ideas that have made life increasingly easier, safer, and healthier for people.