# Mills and Change

Trace how industry reshaped European life and ideas.

**SS24.WH.4** "Explain how changes associated with the Industrial Revolution affected the economies, societies, and politics of Europe. 4a Describe the technological inventions and labor conditions that characterized the Industrial Revolution in Europe..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline two places where a change leads to an effect, circle one labor condition, and number the four theories. Use your marks to explain how industrialization changed Europe.

### A City Built Around Mills

1. In nineteenth-century Britain, a cotton shirt could begin in a noisy mill instead of a family's home. Steam engines powered machines that spun thread and wove cloth faster than hand workers could. Coal fueled the engines, while railways carried raw cotton and finished cloth. Owners invested money in mills and earned profits from sales. Workers, including children, often faced long shifts, low pay, dangerous machines, and little control over their schedules.

2. Factory jobs drew families from villages to growing European cities. Crowded housing and polluted water spread disease, especially where sewers could not keep pace. Mill workers joined a growing urban working class that depended on wages. Factory owners, managers, and professionals formed part of an expanding middle class, with more money and political influence than most laborers. Workers organized unions and pressed governments for safety rules and limits on child labor; reforms arrived unevenly.

3. Ideas about factory life clashed. Capitalism favored private ownership and competition, allowing owners to seek profits. John Stuart Mill defended utilitarianism, arguing that laws should promote the greatest overall well-being while protecting individual liberty. Robert Owen's socialism promoted cooperative communities and shared effort to improve workers' lives. Karl Marx argued that conflict between owners and workers drove history. His Marxism called for workers to overturn capitalism and collectively control production and political power.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did steam-powered machines change cloth production, and what conditions did mill workers face?

2. How did factory jobs change European cities and the groups living in them?

3. How did Mill's and Owen's ideas offer different ways to improve industrial life?

4. How did capitalism and Marxism differ on who should control production?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you advise the council of a growing industrial city. In four or five sentences, propose one policy to address a problem in the passage and explain how two thinkers or theories from the passage might judge it differently.

**ANSWER KEY** # Mills and Change



## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two places where a change leads to an effect, circle one labor condition, and number the four theories. Use your marks to explain how industrialization changed Europe. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How did steam-powered machines change cloth production, and what conditions did mill workers face? | **Machines made spinning and weaving faster than hand work. Mill workers faced long shifts, low pay, and dangerous machines.** |
| 2 | How did factory jobs change European cities and the groups living in them? | **Factory jobs drew families into growing cities, where crowded housing and polluted water spread disease. Wage earners formed a growing working class, while owners, managers, and professionals expanded the middle class.** |
| 3 | How did Mill's and Owen's ideas offer different ways to improve industrial life? | **Mill favored laws that promoted overall well-being while protecting liberty. Owen favored cooperative communities and shared effort to improve workers' lives.** |
| 4 | How did capitalism and Marxism differ on who should control production? | **Capitalism favored private ownership. Marxism called for workers to overturn capitalism and collectively control production.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would ask the council to limit factory shifts to ten hours. Mill might support this rule if healthier workers made life better for more people, though he would also consider individual liberty. Marx might see the rule as a small gain that leaves factory owners in control. He would argue that workers need control of production and political power.

Accept other passage-supported effects and comparisons. For Part 3, look for a policy tied to a stated problem and two distinct, accurate judgments.