# From Farms to Factories

Trace how industrial change reshaped work and cities.

**6.H.10** "Describe the origins, developments, and innovations of the Industrial Revolution throughout Europe and the United States, and explain how the impact of these changes brought about urbanization and the changing role of women and children..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline a reason industry began in Britain, circle two innovations that helped factories grow, and write 1 beside a cause of city growth, 2 beside a change in women's work, and 3 beside a change in children's work.

### A New Way to Work

1. In the late 1700s, the Industrial Revolution began in Britain. For generations, many families had made cloth by hand at home. Now machines spun thread and wove cloth much faster. Britain had coal to heat water for steam power and iron to build machines. Rivers and ports made it easier to move supplies and cloth. Changes in farming also meant fewer workers were needed on some farms. People looking for wages could take jobs in growing textile towns, where mills gathered workers and machines under one roof.

2. In the 1800s, industrial methods spread to other parts of Europe and to the United States. Improved steam engines powered machines even when a river was far away. Railroads carried coal, raw materials, and finished goods between towns. In the United States, northern mills turned cotton into cloth. Much of that cotton came from southern plantations where enslaved people were forced to work. More factories needed more workers, so families left farms and moved near mills. As these towns grew into crowded cities, housing and clean water often failed to keep pace.

3. Factory work changed family life. Before industrialization, many women and children helped make goods at home or worked on farms. In factory towns, some women earned wages in textile mills, though employers often paid them less than men. Children also worked for wages, sometimes for long hours near dangerous machines. Their pay helped some families survive, but work could keep children from school. Over time, workers and reformers pushed governments to limit child labor. New laws slowly reduced the hours children could work, though rules and enforcement differed across Europe and the United States.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did coal and changes in farming help industry begin in Britain?

2. How did improved steam engines and railroads help factories grow in Europe and the United States?

3. Why did factory growth lead to crowded cities, and what problem did fast growth create?

4. How did industrialization change work for women and children, and what was one cost for children?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence letter from a family that moved from a farm to a mill town. Explain why you moved, name an innovation that changed your options, describe how work changed for a woman and a child, and give a reason for choosing to stay or leave.

ANSWER KEY

# From Farms to Factories

GRADE 6 · 6.H.10

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline a reason industry began in Britain, circle two innovations that helped factories grow, and write 1 beside a cause of city growth, 2 beside a change in women's work, and 3 beside a change in children's work. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How did coal and changes in farming help industry begin in Britain? | **Coal supplied heat for steam power, while changes in farming left some people looking for wage work in mills.** |
| 2 | How did improved steam engines and railroads help factories grow in Europe and the United States? | **Steam engines let factories run away from rivers, and railroads moved supplies and finished goods between towns.** |
| 3 | Why did factory growth lead to crowded cities, and what problem did fast growth create? | **Families moved near mills for jobs. Cities grew so quickly that housing and clean water often failed to keep pace.** |
| 4 | How did industrialization change work for women and children, and what was one cost for children? | **Some women and children began earning wages in mills instead of working at home or on farms. Factory work could keep children from school.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Dear Aunt May, we left our farm because fewer hands were needed there, and the mill offered wages. The steam engine lets the mill run even though it is not beside a river. I now earn wages weaving cloth, while my son works long hours instead of going to school. Our street is crowded, and clean water is hard to find. We will stay for now because our wages pay for food.

Accept other passage-supported reasons for industrial growth and other costs of child labor, such as dangerous machines or long hours. Letters may choose to stay or leave if the reason fits the conditions described.