Manchester in Motion

Trace how industrial growth changed work, health, and city life

MWH.C.5.1.C "Describe the social and economic consequences of industrialization, such as population growth, increased life expectancy, rural to urban migration, harsh living conditions for the urban poor, and growth of the middle class."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a phrase about migration, one about hardship for the urban poor, and one about life expectancy. Circle words that help explain each change.

A Growing Industrial City

1 In the early 1800s, a young farmworker in northern England might hear that Manchester's cotton mills needed hands. Machines spun thread and wove cloth faster than home workers could, so mill owners hired large groups of wage earners. As farming changed and the population grew, rural families had fewer chances to earn enough from the land. Many moved to cities for pay, helping Manchester expand rapidly. The move did not guarantee a better life: factory wages could be low, and workdays were long. Still, regular cash wages made the city a tempting choice for families facing uncertain farm income.

2 City growth brought people close to mills but often packed poor families into cramped housing. In some neighborhoods, several households shared a toilet, and dirty water could spread diseases such as cholera. Smoke from coal fires darkened the air. Children sometimes worked for wages instead of attending school, while injuries and lost pay could leave a family without enough food. These conditions were not shared equally. Mill owners and merchants could afford larger homes and cleaner streets. For workers, industrial growth could mean both a new source of income and daily threats to health and security.

3 Industrialization also created more jobs for clerks, bookkeepers, engineers, and shopkeepers. Many joined a growing middle class whose incomes allowed them to buy more goods and invest in education. Over the nineteenth century, food supplies, public sanitation, and medical knowledge improved in many industrializing places. Death rates fell, and average life expectancy rose, although gains were uneven and early factory cities remained dangerous. As more children survived and people lived longer, populations continued to increase. Industrialization did not benefit everyone at the same time, but it reshaped where people lived, how they earned money, and their chances of surviving illness.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did some rural families move to Manchester, and how did their moves affect the city?

2. How could Manchester's growth threaten the health of poor residents?

3. How did industrialization create different economic opportunities for factory workers and members of the growing middle class?

4. Why could population and average life expectancy rise even though early factory cities were dangerous?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a short letter from a Manchester shopkeeper to a cousin who still lives on a farm. Explain how industrialization has changed life for your household and for a mill worker's household, using at least three social or economic consequences from the passage.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline a phrase about migration, one about hardship for the urban poor, and one about life expectancy. Circle words that help explain each change. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did some rural families move to Manchester, and how did their moves affect the city?	**Changes in farming and population growth made it harder for some families to earn enough from the land. They moved for factory wages, helping Manchester grow rapidly.**
2	How could Manchester's growth threaten the health of poor residents?	**Growth packed poor families into cramped housing. Shared toilets and dirty water helped spread disease, while coal smoke polluted the air.**
3	How did industrialization create different economic opportunities for factory workers and members of the growing middle class?	**Factory work offered cash wages, but pay could be low and workdays long. Jobs such as bookkeeping and shopkeeping could provide middle-class incomes that paid for more goods and education.**
4	Why could population and average life expectancy rise even though early factory cities were dangerous?	**Over time, improved food supplies, sanitation, and medical knowledge lowered death rates in many places. More children survived and people lived longer, though the gains were uneven.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Dear Ada, More families have arrived from the countryside, and my shop sells cloth and bread to people who earn factory wages. That business lets our household afford a larger home and schooling for my children. A mill worker who shops here lives with six relatives in two crowded rooms and worries about dirty water and sickness. Her wages are regular, but a missed week of work could leave the family short of food. Industrial growth has brought income to both households, but it has not made their lives equally secure. Your cousin, Ruth

Accept other passage-supported explanations of migration, urban living conditions, class differences, and changes in health. For the letter, look for a plausible comparison of the two households and at least three consequences linked to industrialization.