

Year 6: Local History

The Industrial Revolution

Key Learning

The Industrial Revolution began in the 18th century; when the manufacturing of goods moved from small shops to big factories.

Before the Industrial Revolution, most people in Britain lived in the countryside and worked on a farm or spun wool and cotton to weave into cloth.

New machines were invented that could do these jobs so people were out of work. They moved to towns and cities in search of jobs in new industries.

Much of the population moved from the South-East to the industrialised coalfield areas in the North and the Midlands.

The huge growth in factories in Manchester and the surrounding areas, and the need to transport materials, meant more coal was needed. The Duke's Canal, often referred to as the Bridgewater Canal, was opened to link Manchester to the coal mines in Worsley. This was the first canal to be built in England.



Canal boats at Worsley Delph ready to collect coal directly from the mines and Worsley Delph as it is today; after a renovation project.

1830—Liverpool and Manchester Railway opens with the world's first steam passenger railway. This provided faster transport of raw materials and finished goods between the port of Liverpool and Manchester mills.

Children could work in factories and coal mines to earn money for their families.



Black smoke from factory chimneys polluted the towns and cities.



In 1894 Salford Docks were opened, which allowed ocean ships from the estuary on the River Mersey the ability to bring imported goods and trade directly into Salford and Manchester.



As cities grew at a rapid pace, it brought with it poor housing conditions, long working hours, a rise of infectious diseases and premature death.

Legacy of the Industrial Revolution

- Rise of factories and urbanisation,
- Growth of cities as people moved from the countryside to the city,
- Improvements in transportation because of new inventions like the steam engine,
- Growing trade access for inland cities through the canal systems.

Key Vocabulary

trade	Buying and selling of goods.
industry	The process of making goods by using machines and factories.
urbanisation	The growth of cities due to movement of people.
revolution	A huge change or a change in the way something is done.
imported	Bring goods or services into a county from abroad to sell.

Significant People/Places

Salford Docks

Allowed trade to happen directly with Salford and Manchester.



Quarry Bank Mill

One of the first cotton factories to be built.



Liverpool and Manchester Railway

Sparked a revolution in trade and travel.

