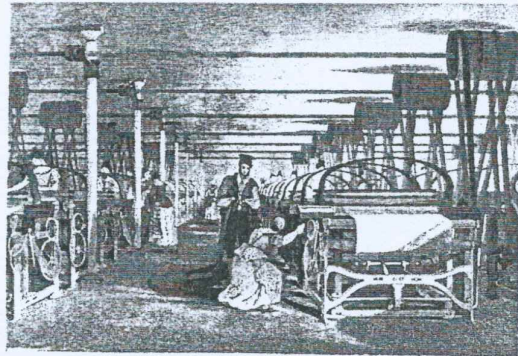


Life in 18th Century Britain

The Industrial Revolution (c. 1780-1830) changed how people lived in Britain. Farmers started using machines to help them produce more crops on their land, workers lost their jobs on farms and moved from the countryside to towns to find work in factories and coal mines and the population of Britain grew from six to nine million people.



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The Industrial Revolution brought advantages and disadvantages

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Factories provided more jobs for people.</i> • <i>Britain became richer because it manufactured more goods to sell to other countries.</i> • <i>New technology such as steam-powered machines could be used in different types of industries.</i> • <i>Better roads, railways and canals were built to transport manufactured goods to markets.</i> • <i>Laws were passed to protect the health and safety of factory and mine workers, especially children.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Towns and cities became crowded. Many people lived in slums.</i> • <i>Landowners and merchants became very wealthy. Factory workers still worked long hours for little pay.</i> • <i>Factory and mine owners employed children as young as five years old to work in dangerous jobs.</i> • <i>Workers suffered serious health problems from working in dirty and unsafe conditions.</i> • <i>Life was quite miserable for poor people. Some people stole from others and ended up in prison.</i>

Transporting criminals to the colonies

Gaols in Britain were overcrowded in the late 18th century because of the increase in petty and serious crime. Convicts were transported to Britain's colonies in North America and the Caribbean to solve the problem. They were expected to work hard, building roads and houses for the governors of the colonies. Convicts were not allowed to return home even when they'd earned their freedom. In 1776, the American colonies became independent from Britain so transportation of convicts stopped. Britain started to look for other faraway places to send its criminals.