

World History

Unit 7: Industrial Revolution

Mrs. Quarles

WHAT WERE THE WORKING AND LIVING CONDITIONS LIKE IN THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION?

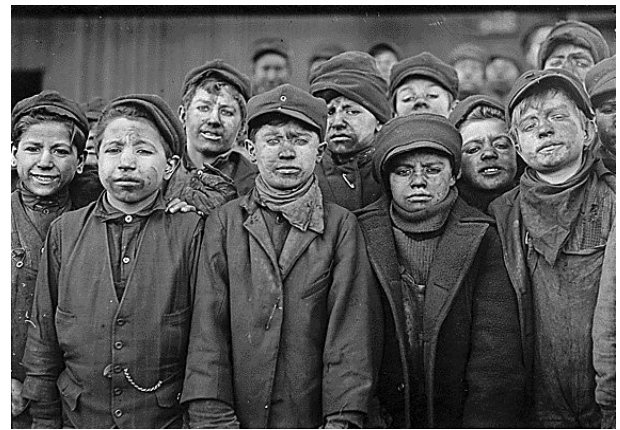
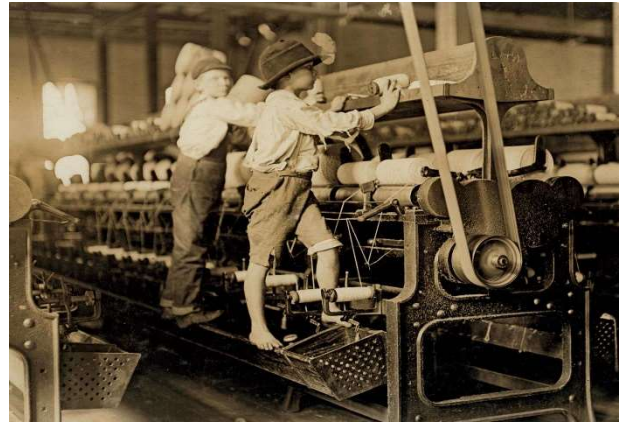
Working Conditions

The working conditions were terrible during the Industrial Revolution. As factories were being built, businesses needed workers. With a long line of people willing to work, employers could set wages as low as they wanted because poor people were willing to work as long as they got paid. People worked 14 to 16 hours a day for six days a week. However, the majority were unskilled workers, who only received about \$8 to \$10 a week, working at approximately \$0.10 per hour. Skilled workers earned a little more and women received 1/3 or sometimes 1/2 the pay that men received. Children received even less.

The conditions of factories were horrible. The only light present was the sunlight that came through the windows, the machines spit out smoke making it difficult to breathe, and the machines did not have safety precautions resulting in numerous accidents.

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Children were paid less than \$0.10 an hour for 14-hour days. They were used for simpler unskilled jobs. Many children had physical deformities because of the lack of exercise, the lack of sunlight, and because of accidents that took place when they were sent into moving machines to perform maintenance on them due to their smaller size.



Living Conditions



As business began to boom and the nation grew more people began to move to the northeast because they wanted jobs. Most people lived in the "slum" as depicted

in the picture to the left. There was no adequate housing, education, or police protection. There were also no building codes or sanitary

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codes. Five to nine people lived in a single room, which was as big as an apartment. Not only was there not enough room, but more people got sick as well due to cramped living conditions. Hygiene was not adequate for the number of people. Chamber pots were used and dumped into the street daily. As cities grew, the demand for more sophisticated water pipes and sewage systems became critical. It was during this era that the first copper pipes were introduced, replacing the lead pipes that were common at the time.

Given proximity to one another combined with the terrible conditions, diseases such as cholera spread rapidly. The lack of medicine and medical care resulted in many deaths. The average lifespan was only 17 years. At the same time, the population was increasing because of more people moving in, so apartments became more crowded and in worse condition.