

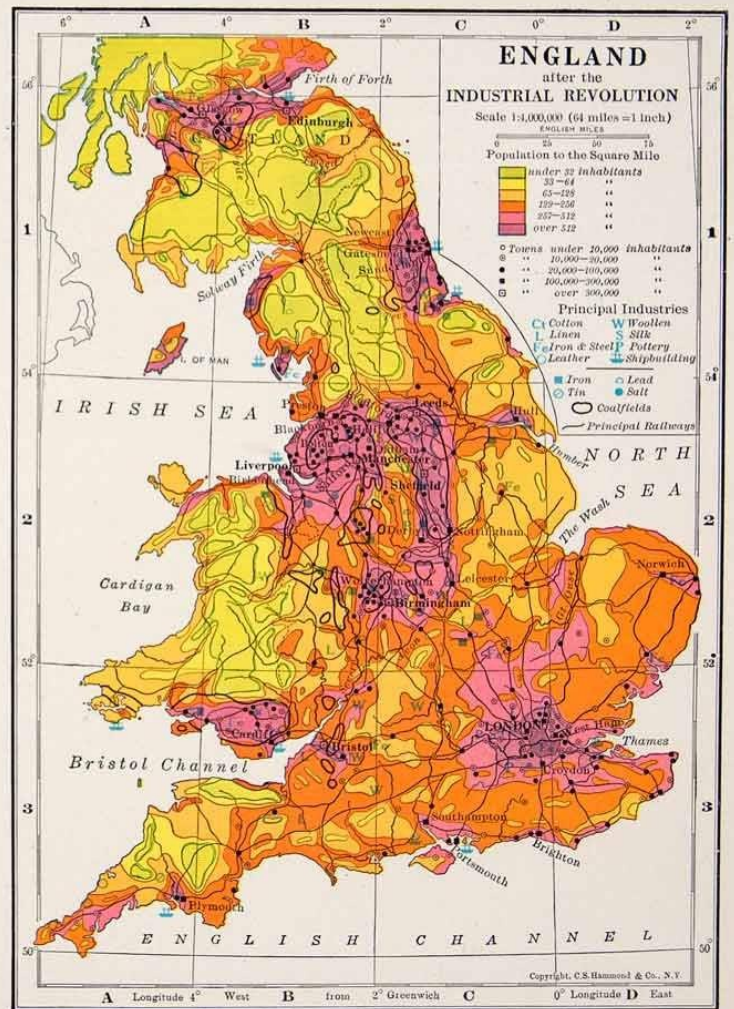
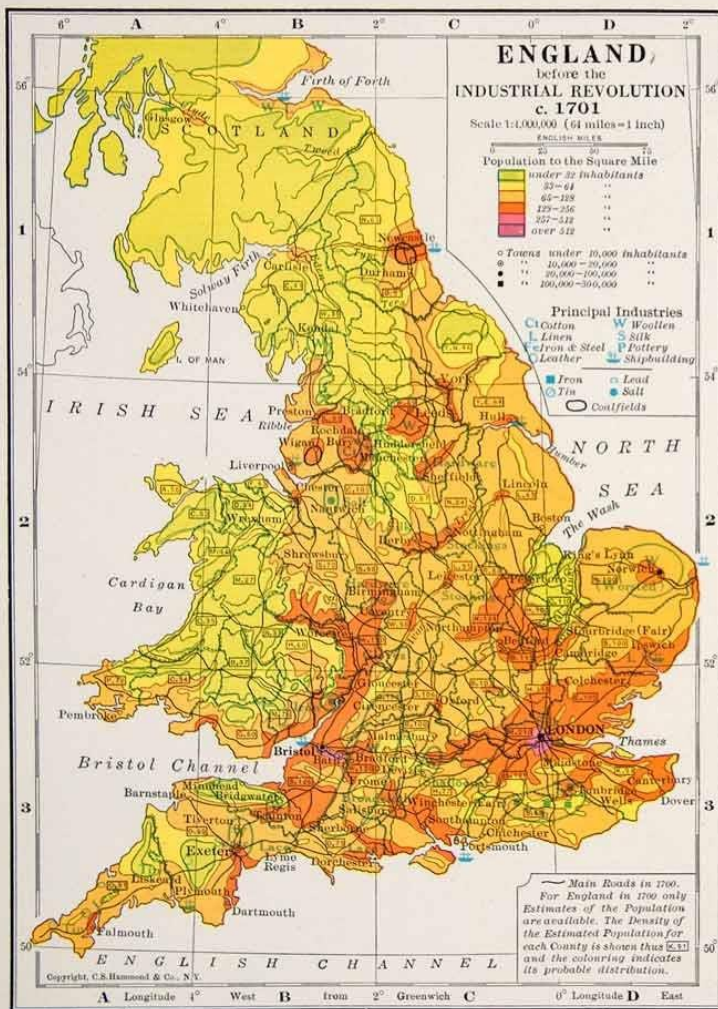
# The Industrial Revolution



- The Industrial Revolution came gradually. It happened over a century (or roughly during the reign of Queen Victoria). However, when measured against over the centuries people had worked with their hands it must have seemed very sudden.
- The Industrial Revolution was born in the United Kingdom – the very heart of the British Empire (the top political and commercial institution in the world) – and spread rapidly throughout the world (especially the United States).
  - Remember that most Canadian cities in Upper Canada (and west) were born during the Industrial Revolution – this includes Waterdown (settled in 1805, established in 1830).
- The most important changes brought with the Industrial Revolution were:
  - The invention of machines to do the work of hands and hand tools.
  - The use of steam, and later kinds of power, in place of muscles of human beings and animals (example: Mills powered by water in places like Waterdown’s Smokey Hollow).
  - The adoption of the factory system.
- The “beginning” of the Industrial Revolution is said to be the invention of John Kay’s “Flying Shuttle” (an innovation in spinning yarn out of wool) in 1733.



- The increase in demand due to the flying shuttle exceeded the capacity of the spinning industry of the day, and prompted development of powered spinning machines which could produce strong, fine thread in quantities needed. These innovations transformed the textile industry in Great Britain.
- By 1750 large quantities of goods were being exchanged among the European nations, and there was an increased demand for more goods than were being produced.
- At the same time, land enclosures across Great Britain were forcing landless people off their estates and into cities –creating a pool of available workers.
  - This created the conditions for massive social and political change. Farm labourers and artisans were transformed by industrial centres into workers.
  - Cities grew rapidly, as the percentage of the rural population declined.



Population Density of England Before the Industrial Revolution (left - 1701) and after (right).

Fun fact: Sanitation was so bad at the beginning of the Industrial Revolution that European cities only started growing from their own birthrates (and not people moving to them) in the 1900s!

- The change from domestic work to the factory system meant a loss of independence to the worker.



Benefits of working as a home/farm/artisanal worker:

What happens when you enter the factory system:

Remember  
Hal Poohack

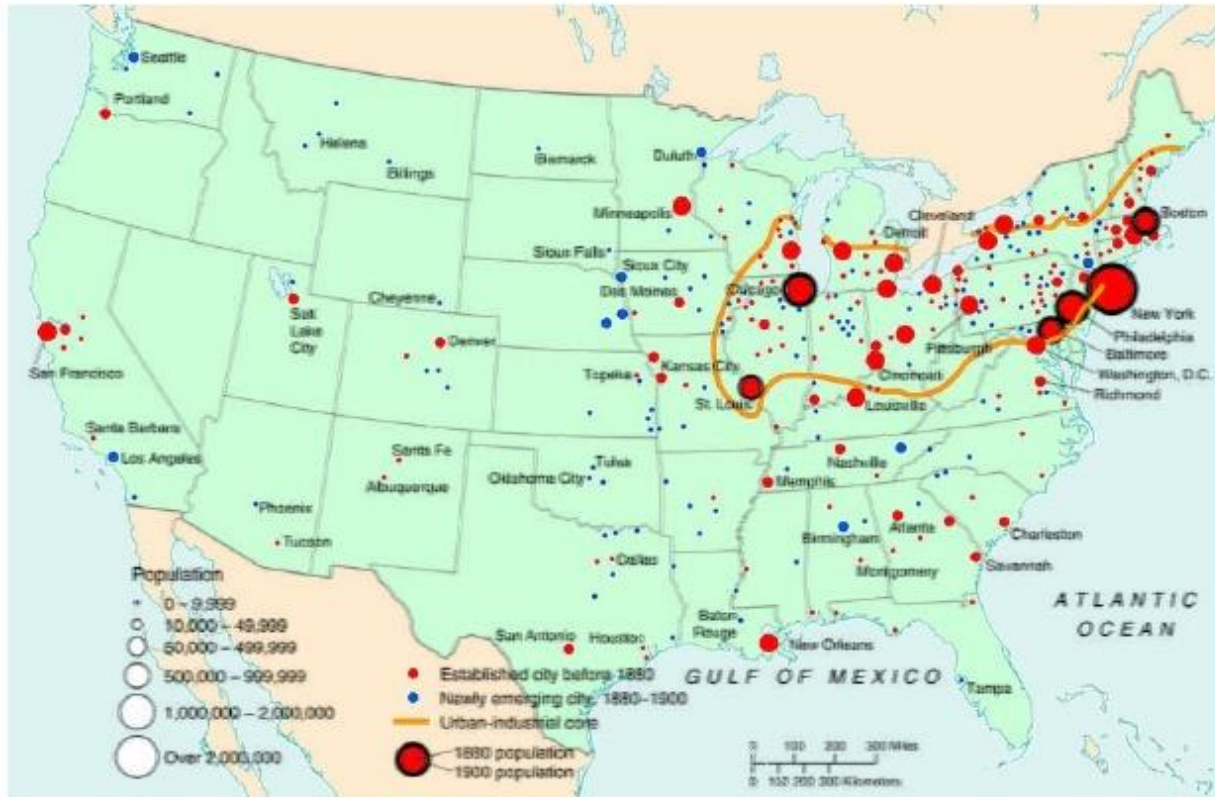
Time?

Children?

- The Industrial Revolution created a new “class” called the middle class (factory owners, merchants and professionals such as doctors and lawyers). In England, this middle class demanded to be heard in government, challenging its traditional control by the British landed aristocracy.

- The labourers soon began to see the hopelessness of their situations, uniting together into “unions” against the factory owners to demand better wages, working conditions and reasonable hours. These same workers began reading the writings of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels.

The Industrial Revolution and the United States:



**MAP 18-2 The Growth of American Cities, 1880-1900** Several significant trends stand out on this map. First is the development of an urban-industrial core, stretching from New England to the Midwest, where the largest cities were located. And second is the emergence of relatively new cities in the South and West, reflecting the national dimensions of innovations in industry and transportation.