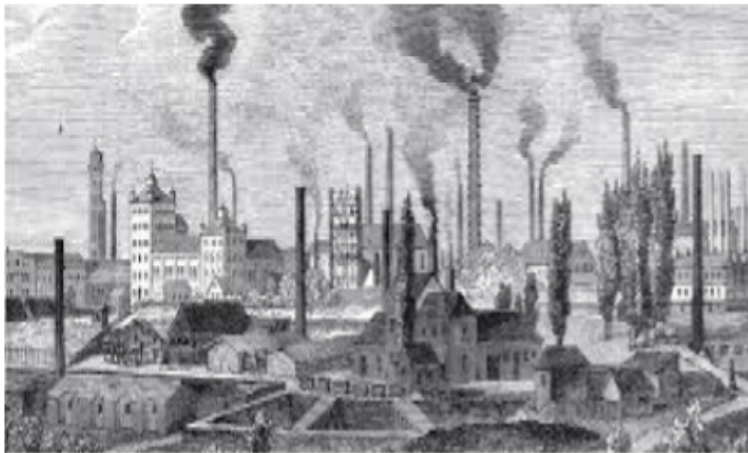


# Industrial Revolution

## What I should already know

**Life in Victorian England was hard for many people. Life expectancy was short and many towns and cities were small with low populations. Most people worked in the countryside, farming and working in agriculture. Machinery as we know it had not been developed.**



Key Vocabulary	
industrial	This word relates to industry and factories- if a place is an industrial centre, it has many factories.
Revolution	A change in the way something is done- industrial revolution relates to the way industry changed dramatically.
agriculture	Reference to all types of farming- animals or crops.
generation	All the people of about the same age within a society or within a <u>particular</u> family:
horsepower	A unit for measuring the power of an engine- relates to the fact horses had always provided the power for industry.
population	The numbers of people who live in a place.
economy	The system of trade and industry by which the wealth of a country is made and used:
rural	This relates to out in the countryside.
migration	The movement of people from one place to another.

### Key facts.

Great Britain was rural and relied heavily on farming. Towns and cities were small but grew rapidly during the Victorian years with the growth of industry. Most people up to this point never really left their village.

Transport and farming relied on horsepower. Daylight and the seasons ruled the working day. James Watt had invented the steam engine in 1769 but it was not affordable for many. Steam had a massive impact on industry. Traction engines allowed fields to be ploughed 20 times faster and factories could be anywhere- they chose towns and cities. People who worked on farms were replaced by engines so those people went to work in factories.

The age of the railway began, shortening travel times. By 1851, 6,800 miles of track had been laid. You could travel from London to Bristol in hours rather than days.

Postal charges were standardised in 1839 which saw a boom in mailing. Then, telegraph changed everything in 1840. This allowed people to message globally for the first time.



The Victorians now wanted everything done quickly. Steam power allowed this to happen. Factories developed into much more efficient industrial organisations. As people were earning regular reliable wages, life improved for many. Weekends became leisure time which saw the development of spectator sports like cricket and football as well as music hall for working classes. The rural communities declined further as more people moved to the thriving mills and industrial towns.