Knowledge Organiser – *The Industrial Revolution*

Year 8
Half-term 5

Historians generally agree that the Industrial Revolution took place in Britain approximately between the years 1750AD and 1900AD.

Key terms:
Industry: Turning raw materials into manufactured goods in factories.
Raw materials: Things that are grown, like wheat, or found in nature, like coal.
Agriculture: Farming crops or raising livestock (sheep, cattle, pigs etc.).
Rural: The countryside.
Urban: Towns and cities.
Turnpike: A road where travelers pay a toll (fee) to use it. The money is used to maintain the road.
Canal: an artificial man-made waterway.
Revolution: a dramatic and wide-reaching change.
Machine: an apparatus using mechanical power to complete tasks.
Factory: a building or group of buildings where goods are manufactured or assembled chiefly by machine.
Entrepreneur: a business person who invests money in new ideas and technology.

Some key dates of the Industrial Revolution:
1709 – Abraham Darby develops a new type of fuel called coke which was better than coal in making iron.
1712 – the invention of the first practical steam engine.
1730s – Lord 'Turnip' Townshend develops the crop rotation system. More food could be grown each year by rotating the types of crops grown in each field. One crop were turnips which could be used to feed animals over winter - people could now have meat all year round.
1750s – Farmer Robert Bakewell introduces selective breeding. By carefully breeding animals, cattle produce more milk and meat and sheep produce more wool. The new ideas of Townshend, Bakewell and others are known as the Agricultural Revolution.
1761 – James Hargreaves invents the first spinning machine which can do the work of multiple people – the Spinning Jenny. In the same year the Duke of Bridgwater opens his canal to carry coal to Manchester and Liverpool
1771 – Richard Arkwright opens one of the world's first factories at Cromford in the Derbyshire. hills The factory uses water from fast flowing rivers to power the weaving machines inside.
1776 – Matthew Boulton & James Watt develop the first effective steam engine. Producing more power than using water, factories could now be built in towns and cities where there was lots of potential workers and people to buy the manufactured goods made.
1825 – The first commercial railway line was opened in the north of England. By the end of the 1800s, railways covered the whole of Britain allowing people and goods to travel quickly and easily.
Early 1900s – Britain has grown into the world wealthiest and most powerful industrial nation. Britain is known as 'The workshop of the world' and British made goods can be found on every continent. Britain's huge empire provides a market for manufactured goods as well as a source of raw materials.

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The Industrial Revolution led to a number of changes to the way people lived and worked.

New tools, techniques and technology revolutionised agriculture. More food could be produced by fewer workers. People began to move from rural areas looking for work.

The development of new technology like water and steam powered machines in factories created a demand for workers. As these factories tended to be located in urban towns and cities, places like Manchester and Leeds grew rapidly during the 18th and 19th centuries.

In 1801, Britain had a population of around 10 million. By 1901, it had trebled to just over 30 million. By 1901 around 85% of people lived in towns and cities and more people were working in industry rather than agriculture than ever before.

More and more people living in towns and cities led to social problems. Factory work could be long and hard with average working days of 12 hours. Poverty was an increasing problem and life expectancy remained low.

As a result of the industrial revolution some workers benefited from increased leisure time with the development of the idea of 'the weekend' and the 'holiday'. Some people were able to become wealthy as a result of the Industrial Revolution and there was a growing middle class in Britain.