

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Reading Activities for High School History

Read the text below and answer the questions!

# The Industrial Revolution

The Industrial Revolution, which began in the late 18th century, transformed societies from agrarian economies to industrialized powerhouses. It originated in Great Britain and spread to other parts of Europe and North America. The revolution was fueled by major technological innovations, including the steam engine, the spinning jenny, and the power loom. These advancements increased productivity and reduced the need for manual labor in industries such as textiles, mining, and transportation.

One of the most significant impacts of the Industrial Revolution was urbanization. As factories emerged, people moved from rural areas to cities in search of work. This rapid migration led to overcrowded living conditions and public health challenges. On the other hand, it also created new opportunities and laid the groundwork for modern economies.

Socially, the revolution widened the gap between the wealthy and the working class. Factory owners amassed great wealth, while laborers often worked long hours under harsh conditions for low wages. These disparities eventually sparked calls for labor reforms, leading to the rise of labor unions and movements for workers' rights.

While the Industrial Revolution brought about unprecedented progress, it also had its drawbacks. Environmental pollution increased, and traditional ways of life were disrupted. However, the revolution ultimately set the stage for the modern world, with its emphasis on technology, industry, and innovation.

### QUESTIONS

1. Where did the Industrial Revolution begin, and where did it spread afterward?

2. Name two technological innovations mentioned in the text that contributed to the Industrial Revolution.

3. What was one major social impact of urbanization during the Industrial Revolution?

4. How did the Industrial Revolution affect the gap between social classes?

5. What were the two negative consequences of the Industrial Revolution?

6. In what ways did the Industrial Revolution shape the modern world?