

# The Factory System

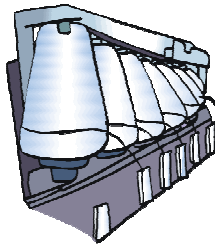
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## Inventions

•New inventions led to the development of the "Factory System", and often one invention led to the creation of another.

•The *Flying Shuttle* by John Kay wove cloth faster, and this created an increased demand for thread.

•James Hargreaves then created the *Spinning Jenny*, and Richard Arkwright created



the *Water Frame* to spin thread much faster. The water frame used water to power it, and most early factories needed to be located close to sources of running water.

•Edmund Cartwright created the *Power Loom* -- a fully mechanized way of making cloth. This was a large, dangerous machine that was powered by the steam engine.

•The power loom led to an increased demand for raw cotton and the creation of the *Cotton Gin* by Eli Whitney.

## Child Labor

•Child labor was prized for several reasons -- children were cheaper to employ, and they were small. Their hands and bodies fit into small spaces. Thus they swept under the machines, and changed the bobbins of thread when empty. These tasks required the quick, 'nimble' hands of children.



•Children as young as 5 or 6 worked full 12 hour days.

•Children were often permanently disfigured or disabled from factory work. This was often *not* the result of accidental injury, but rather was the result of the years of bending or standing or crouching.

## Sweatshops

•Many textile factories were given the nickname "sweatshops" because of the hot and sweaty environment maintained within, and because the labor was "sweated" out of the workers.

•The temperatures inside of textile mills were kept warm and humid in order to prevent the cotton threads from breaking.

•The air of a textile factory was filled with cotton fibers, and often created lung diseases in the workers. Eye inflammations, tuberculosis, deafness and mouth cancers were not uncommon in factory laborers.

•Early factories had no safety features on machines. It was not difficult to get fingers, hands, arms, hair, clothes or feet caught in the machines. Such incidents resulted in disability, disfigurement and death.



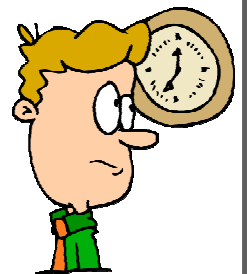
## The Work Day

•The work day was long -- 12 to 14 hours, six days a week, with limited breaks for meals.

•Everything was now governed by the clock, and not by the rhythms of life, as agricultural life had been. Time was now the master of work patterns, not nature.

•The work in the factory was boring and repetitive, leading the worker to feel like a machine -- de-humanized.

•There was no disability, and there were no sick days. If a worker could not work, for whatever reason, he was fired. There was a surplus of unemployed people waiting to take any job. Physically disabled workers often ended up begging in the streets.



Global History  
The Factory System

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. Complete the chart below.

Invention	Inventor	Function?

6. Why was there a substantial incidence of disability, disfigurement and death in factories?

7. Why were children desired as employees?

8. What tasks did children perform in factories?

2. How did one invention lead to another?

9. What was the impact of long term factory employment on children?

3. Why were factories called *sweatshops*?

10. How had time, and the work day changed?

4. Why were factories kept warm and humid?

11. What was the impact of factory work on the worker?

5. What illnesses resulted from factory work?

Global History  
The Factory System Key

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. Complete the chart below.

Invention	Inventor	Function?
Flying Shuttle	John Kay	Wove cloth faster
Spinning Jenny	James Hargreaves	Spun thread faster
Water Frame	Richard Arkwright	Used water power to spin thread
Power Loom	Edmund Cartwright	Used steam power to weave large quantities of cloth
Cotton Gin	Eli Whitney	Separated seeds from raw cotton more easily

2. How did one invention lead to another?

Inventions were created to meet increased demand for various products. Since the flying shuttle wove cloth faster, the spinning jenny and water frames were created to increase production of thread... etc...

3. Why were factories called *sweatshops*?

For two reasons... the working environment was kept hot, humid and sweaty, and labor was sweated out of employees.

4. Why were factories kept warm and humid?

In order to prevent the cotton threads from breaking.

5. What illnesses resulted from factory work?

Eye inflammations, tuberculosis, deafness and mouth cancers were not uncommon in factory laborers.

6. Why was there a substantial incidence of disability, disfigurement and death in factories?

Early factories had no safety features on machines. It was not difficult to get fingers, hands, arms, hair, clothes or feet caught in the machines.

7. Why were children desired as employees?

Children were cheaper to employ, and they were small. Their hands and bodies fit into small spaces.

8. What tasks did children perform in factories?

They swept under the machines, and changed the bobbins of thread when empty.

9. What was the impact of long term factory employment on children?

Children were often permanently disfigured or disabled from factory work. This was often *not* the result of accidental injury, but rather was the result of the years of bending or standing or crouching.

10. How had time, and the work day changed?

Everything was now governed by the clock, and not by the rhythms of life, as agricultural life had been. Time was now the master of work patterns, not nature.

11. What was the impact of factory work on the worker?

Work in the factory was boring and repetitive, leading the worker to feel like a machine – de-humanized. Also, there was no disability and no sick days, and if workers became hurt or sick, they were easily replaced.

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