

When did the Industrial Revolution happen?

A revolution is usually defined as **'a great or rapid change which destroys what went before, and replaces it with something better'**.

Historians talk about an Industrial Revolution in Britain. The following activities will help you to decide when this revolution occurred.

Activities

1. Look carefully at the individuals and their inventions/achievements below. In one colour, shade the one you think was most important **at the time**, and in another colour, shade the one you think is still the most important **today**.

KEY: Most important **at the time** Most important **today**

2. Draw a timeline from 1700 to 1850. Using the information in the boxes below, mark onto the timeline the invention/achievement and when it happened.

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| <p>Individual: Josiah Wedgwood Profession: Pottery manufacturer Achievement: Founded the Etruria Works, a modern factory which ran for 180 years Date: 1769</p> | <p>Individual: Abraham Darby I Profession: Ironmaker Achievement: First person to use coke to make iron, producing the finest iron of the time Date: 1709</p> |
| <p>Individual: Abraham Darby III Profession: Ironmaker Achievement: Built the first iron bridge Date: 1779</p> | <p>Individual: Robert Owen Profession: Textile manufacturer Achievement: Made sure his workers at the New Lanark Mill were treated well Date: 1800-1825</p> |
| <p>Individual: Isambard Kingdom Brunel Profession: Engineer Achievement: Built Great Western Railway from London to Bristol and steamships such as the Great Western and the SS Great Britain Date: 1833-1843</p> | <p>Individual: Richard Arkwright Profession: Cotton spinner Achievement: First successful cotton manufacturer who built the first water-powered mill Date: 1771</p> |
| <p>Individual: Thomas Newcomen Profession: Engineer Achievement: Built first atmospheric steam engine Date: 1712</p> | <p>Individual: Thomas Telford Profession: Road, bridge and canal builder Achievement: Built the longest suspension bridge of the time (Menai Straits), and over 1,000 miles of road Date: 1819-1826</p> |

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| <p>Individual: James Brindley Profession: Engineer and canal builder Achievement: Designed and built the Grand Trunk Canal Date: 1760s</p> | <p>Individual: Francis Egerton Profession: third Duke of Bridgewater Achievement: Commissioned the Bridgewater Canal, often said to be the first true canal, to transport coal from his mines to towns Date: 1761</p> |
| <p>Individual: George Stephenson Profession: Railway engineer Achievement: Invented the 'Rocket' locomotive, and built the Stockton and Darlington Railway, and the Liverpool and Manchester Railway Date: 1824-1830</p> | <p>Individual: Richard Trevithick Profession: Mining engineer Achievement: Built first full-scale working railway steam locomotive Date: 1804</p> |
| <p>Individual: Humphrey Davy Profession: Chemist and inventor Achievement: Invented the Davy Lamp which allowed deeper coal mining Date: 1815</p> | <p>Individual: John 'Iron Mad' Wilkinson Profession: Industrialist Achievement: Pioneered the use and manufacture of cast iron, and made cylinders more accurate so that steam engines worked better Date: 1774</p> |
| <p>Individual: Henry Bessemer Profession: Engineer and inventor Achievement: Made cheaper and improved steel Date: 1850-55</p> | <p>Individual: Henry Cort Profession: Inventor Achievement: Invented key iron purifying processes known as 'puddling' and 'rolling' Date: 1783</p> |
| <p>Individual: James Watt Profession: Engineer and inventor Achievement: Improving the steam engine for powering factory machines Date: 1764</p> | <p>Individual: Boulton and Watt Profession: Steam engine manufacturers Achievement: Supplied most early factories Date: 1775-1805</p> |

BIG question

Historians used to say the Industrial Revolution happened between 1780 and 1800. Does your timeline support this theory? When do you think the Industrial Revolution happened? Use your timeline to justify your answer.