

# **The Industrial Revolutions Affect on our Environment and Society**

# Introduction

The Industrial Revolution began in Britain in the 1700's, and spread to the rest of the world, beginning with the United States. It was a transition to new manufacturing processes. This transition included going from hand production methods to machines, factories, chemical manufacturing, etc. However, this extreme technological evolution resulted in permanent negative effects on our environment. Thanks to industrialization, there was a huge decrease in trees, water contamination, smoggy air, etc.



# Upsides to Industrialization

Although there is no question that the Industrial Revolution wreaked havoc on the environment, it was a positive change for the mechanical and industrial worlds, along with the population. We were able to create new technologies that though made life extremely difficult in the process of creation, in the end we had new medicines, cleaner water and food available to us. For example, thanks to factories polluting our water, we eventually came up with the idea of a sewage systems which made water even cleaner than it was pre-industrialization.

# Downsides to Industrialization

The environment still suffers today from the effects of industrialization. The use of factories and mass production has led to a depletion of certain natural resources, leaving the environment permanently damaged. One example of this depletion is deforestation, which is the clearing of forest trees for use in production. When the trees are cleared, the wildlife in the forest also becomes uprooted.

# How Industrialization Affected Society

Society in the industrial revolution was based on status. If you knew someone working in factories during the time, you would be considered the same level of less as them vs a successful person during the era. If you had connections to someone who fit the term “rich” you were treated better and had overall a more comfortable lifestyle



# Medicine Advancements

In 1796, Edward Jenner performed the first vaccination against smallpox. By 1840, use of the vaccine was widespread in Great Britain. Louis Pasteur determined that microscopic organisms spread diseases and discovered a way to remove germs from milk. On October 16, 1846, ether was used for the first time as an anesthesia during surgery. The development of ophthalmoscope, stethoscope and thermometer in the mid- 1800s helped doctors in diagnosing medical conditions.



The later years of the industrial revolution helped bring an end to epidemics, also helping with the fast medicine developments, diseases quickly became more manageable/fightable. Great Britain's public health acts of 1848 and 1875 set up local health boards and made the government responsible for investigating sanitary conditions and inspecting sewage systems. Chemists in the 1800s discovered better methods of making soap. As a result, soap became an easy product to obtain and led to improved personal hygiene.