

Child workers in Factories

You are living in Britain at the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. As we have seen the population of Britain is growing and people are moving from jobs in cottages and farms to jobs in towns working in big factories. These factories have been set up to use new machines to produce more goods for the growing number of people living in Britain.

As a Newspaper reporter it is going to be your job to investigate claims that these factories are using child workers. You also need to write a newspaper article on:

- 'The conditions in factories for Children'

Tasks

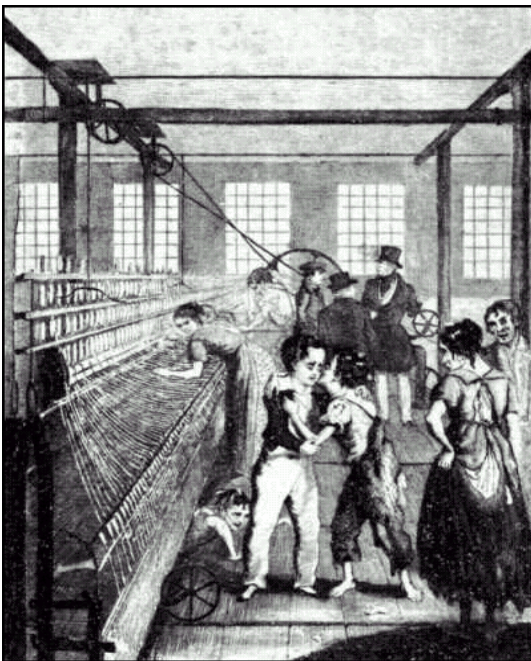
To help you with writing this report you will need to:

A) Look at the sources 1-5 below and consider what each source tells us about:

- The **Jobs** children did
- **Accidents** which often happened
- **Punishments** children faced
- The **Food** children were given
- The **Hours** children worked

B) Begin writing your newspaper article by thinking of a good heading and detailing what your investigation of the sources has found.

C) Prepare a list of questions for a factory owner. As part of the report you will also be able to interview a leading Factory Owner (The Teacher) about your findings



Source 1

Some children, called scavengers, had **Jobs** such as cleaning the machines while they were still working, which was very dangerous

Source 2

'There were terrible **accidents**. Sometimes the children's hands and arms were caught in the machinery; in many instances the muscles, and the skin is stripped down to the bone, and in some instances a finger or two might be lost.'

Comment from a Doctor in Manchester

Source 3

"I have seen the factory owner with a horse whip standing outside the mill. He **punished** the children who came late.

John Fairbrother, an overlooker, interviewed in 1819

Source 4

'Our common **food** was oatcake. It was thick and coarse. This was our breakfast and supper. Our dinner was potato pie with boiled bacon it, it tasted awful, but we were hungry enough to eat anything.'

Written by a child worker

Source 5

"Very often the children are woken at 4am. They work for 16 **hours**, with little breaks, until they go home at night to their parents"

Richard Oastler, interviewed in 1832