

The Industrial Revolution



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What Was the Industrial Revolution?

The Industrial Revolution was a period of tremendous change in Britain, which lasted from around 1750 until around 1900. In this period of 150 years, almost every aspect of life in Britain changed.

It was the birth of the modern world and Britain changed from a **rural** country with small industries to a highly **industrialised** and wealthy nation.

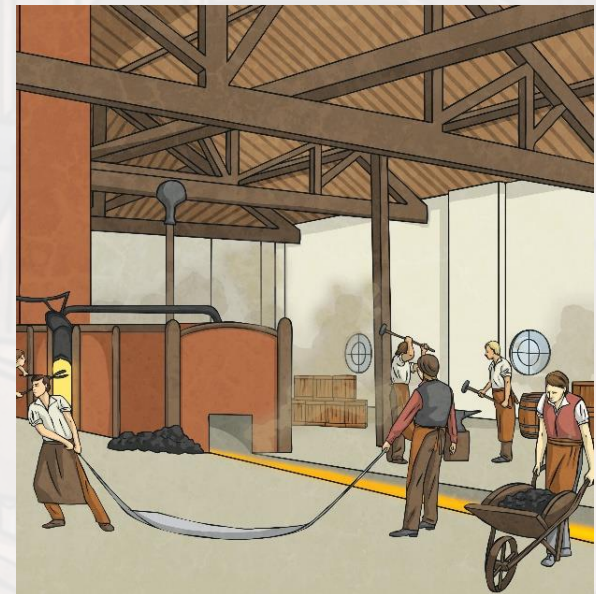
What Is Industry?

An industry is a collection of companies all involved in the same type of production or business.

Can you think of examples of different industries?

Did You Know...?

The word revolution means a huge change. There can be different types of revolution, such as a political revolution.

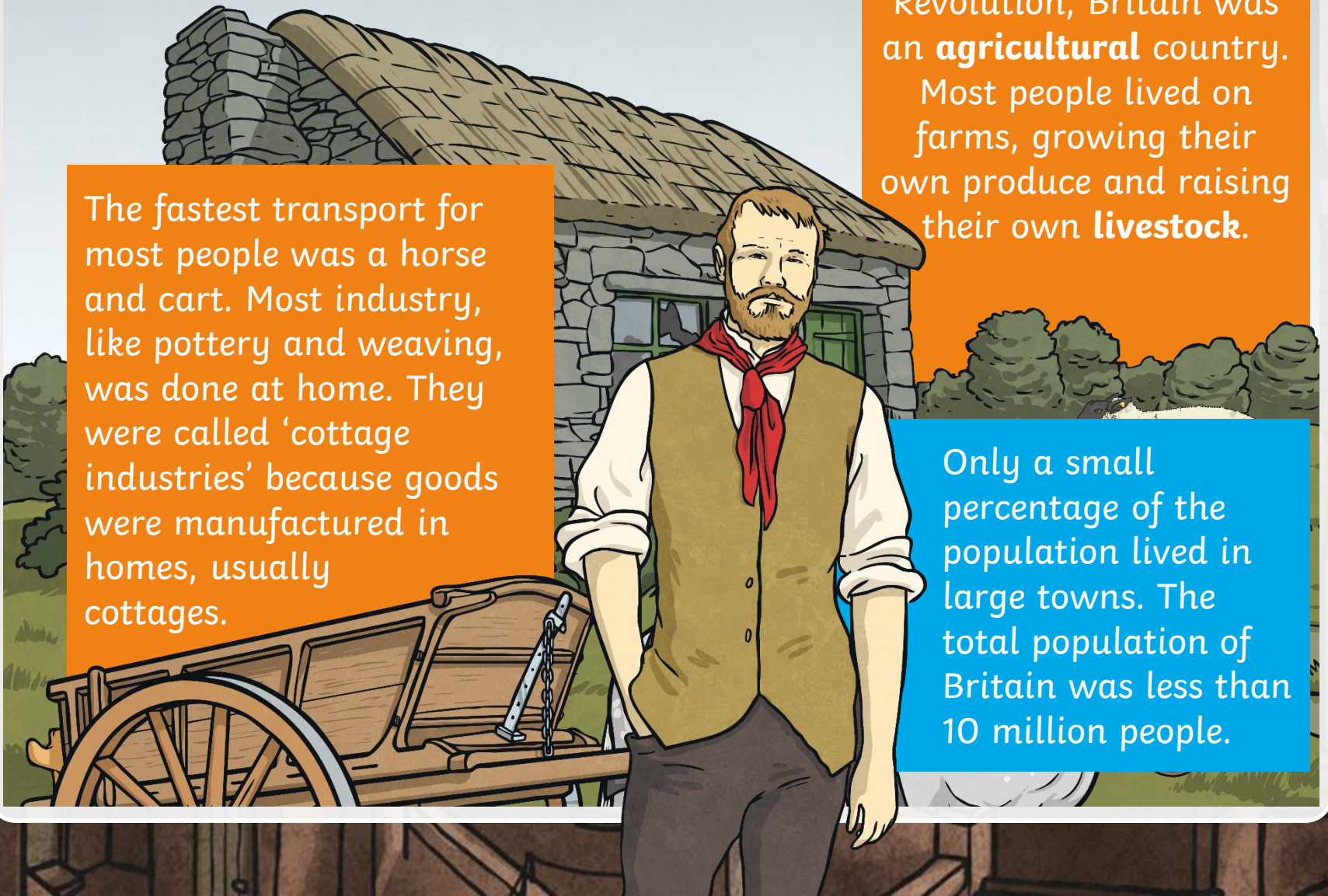


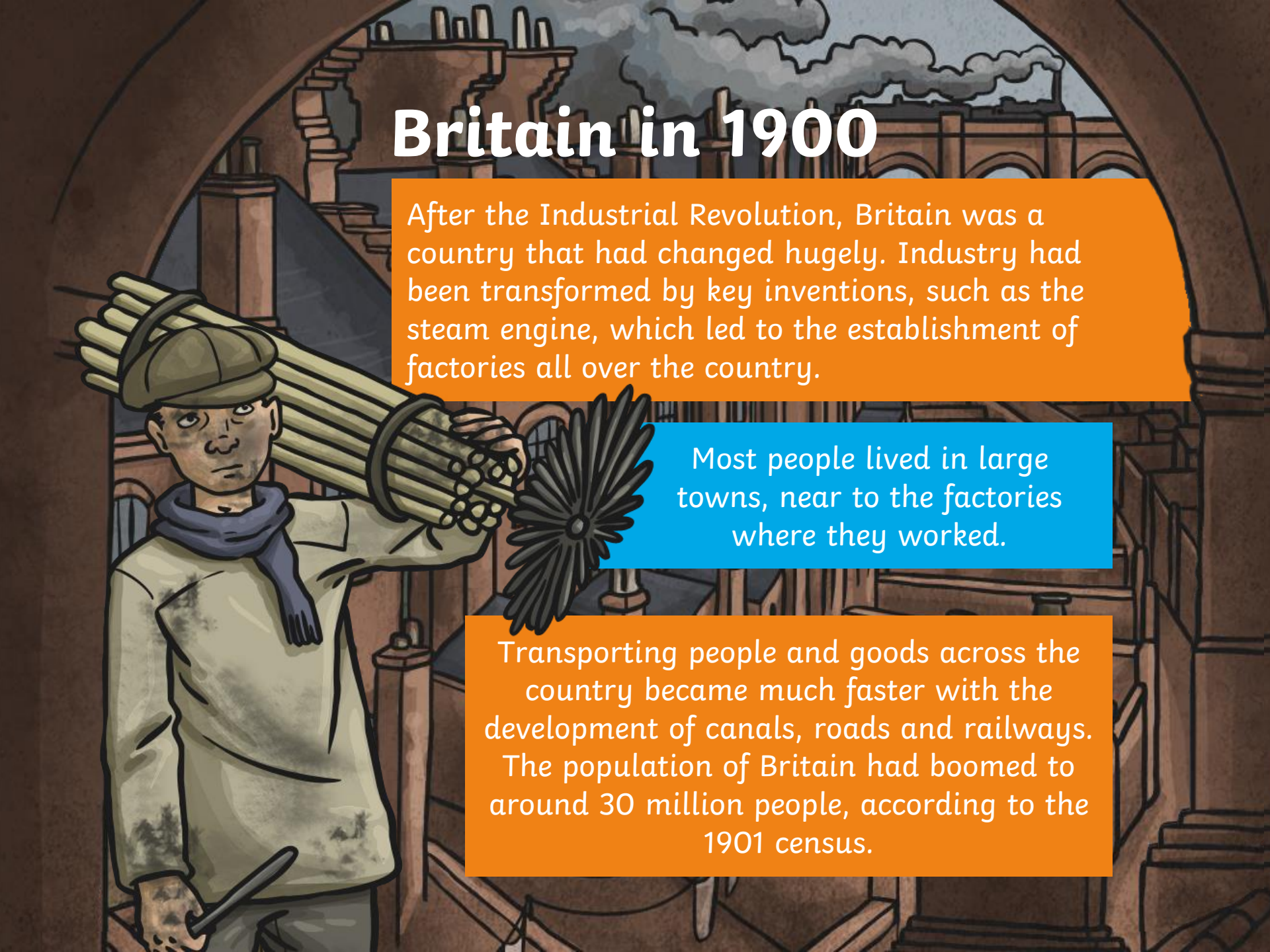
Britain in 1750

The fastest transport for most people was a horse and cart. Most industry, like pottery and weaving, was done at home. They were called 'cottage industries' because goods were manufactured in homes, usually cottages.

Before the Industrial Revolution, Britain was an **agricultural** country. Most people lived on farms, growing their own produce and raising their own **livestock**.

Only a small percentage of the population lived in large towns. The total population of Britain was less than 10 million people.



An illustration of a man in a cap and scarf carrying a large bundle of sticks over his shoulder and a broom in his hand. He is standing in front of a large industrial building with many chimneys emitting smoke. The scene is framed by a large archway.

Britain in 1900

After the Industrial Revolution, Britain was a country that had changed hugely. Industry had been transformed by key inventions, such as the steam engine, which led to the establishment of factories all over the country.

Most people lived in large towns, near to the factories where they worked.

Transporting people and goods across the country became much faster with the development of canals, roads and railways. The population of Britain had boomed to around 30 million people, according to the 1901 census.

Britain changed so much during the Industrial Revolution that it was almost unrecognisable. For example, a trip from Manchester to London took four days in the 1700s; by 1880, it only took four hours!

Do you think these changes would have led to any problems?

Would these problems have affected everyone in Britain?

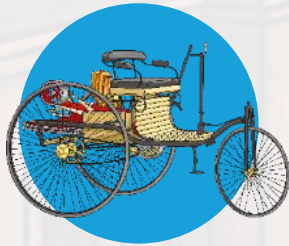
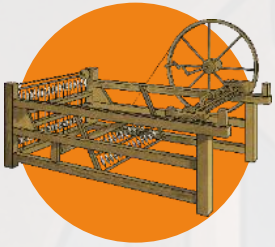


Why Was There an Industrial Revolution?

The Industrial Revolution occurred because people realised they could use coal and steam to power large machines.



These new machines reduced the length of time it took to make something and increased the amount that could be made.



Automobile – Karl Benz (1885)

The first motorcar meant that people could travel to places faster.

Click the circles for
more information

How Was Transport Affected by the Industrial Revolution?

The Industrial Revolution was also built on new developments in transport.

These helped to link towns and boosted trade as goods, such as produce, textiles and coal, were transported across the country quickly and cheaply.

This, in turn, helped industry to grow across the country.

Railways

With the first passenger railway being built in 1825, 'railway mania' happened in Britain in the 1840s. Railways became the fastest mode of transport. £3 billion was invested in railways between 1845 and 1900. In 1870, 423 million passengers travelled on 16,000 miles of line – an incredible achievement in just 45 years!



Click the circles for
more information

What Was Life like during the Industrial Revolution?

The new machines invented during the Industrial Revolution, combined with the flexibility of steam power, led to huge factories being built in towns. This resulted in people **migrating** to towns from the countryside. People were attracted to factory work by reliable pay and the availability of work.

Working in these factories was extremely difficult. People worked very long shifts in dirty, noisy and very dangerous conditions.

There were not many laws to protect workers in factories during the Industrial Revolution. Injuries were very common as most machines were unguarded.



Imagine the sights, sounds and smells of a Victorian factory. What would it be like to work there?

Living Conditions

Factories sprang up very quickly during this period. Houses for workers were built rapidly and close to their place of work. Workers often lived in poor-quality and cramped housing.

These industrialised towns were overcrowded and polluted.

The cheapest type of housing was back-to-back terracing. These terraces rarely had clean, running water access. It was common for diseases to spread quickly in these areas. This led to outbreaks of diseases, such as cholera and diphtheria.



Imagine the sights, sounds and smells of Victorian back-back housing. What would it be like to live there?

Children in the Industrial Revolution

Children as young as five were sent to work in factories during the Industrial Revolution. It was important for poor families to send as many members of their family out to work as possible so they could earn as much money as they could. There was no help for poor families, except from some charities. If a family couldn't work, they could become homeless and hungry.

Children also worked as chimney sweeps, in coal mines, as servants and in cotton mills. Many were injured by machines or hurt in industrial accidents.

Did You Know...?

During this time, the population in Britain boomed to around 30 million people. Can you think why this happened?



Laws to Protect Children

**Before
1800**

School was not free and most poor children only received education in a Sunday school.

1833

The government passed the Factory Act making two hours of education a day compulsory for children working in factories. The government also granted money to charities to help schools for the first time.

1844

The Ragged Schools Union was set up to give schooling to very poor children.

1870

Forster's Act set up state-funded board schools for primary education.

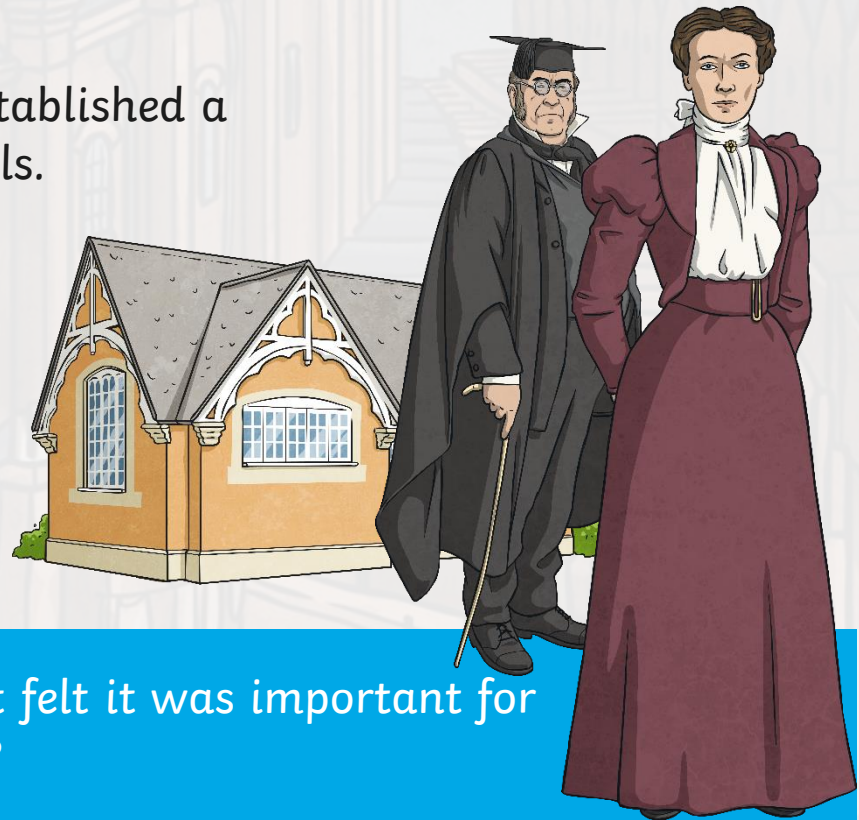
Laws to Protect Children

1880

The Education Act made school attendance compulsory for children between the ages of five and ten.

1902

The 1902 Education Act established a system of secondary schools.



Why do you think the government felt it was important for all children to have an education?

Britain after the Industrial Revolution

Britain in 1900 was a very different place.

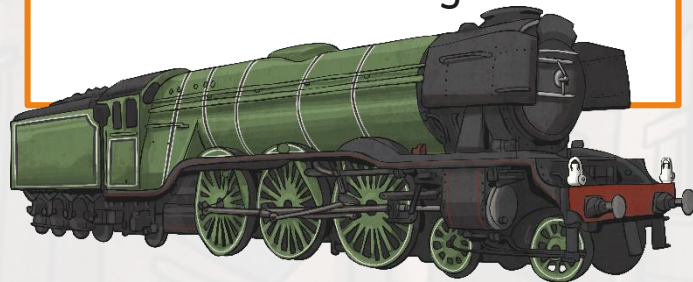
The world had shrunk through exploration.



Raw materials, goods, food (e.g. fresh milk) and post arrived faster.

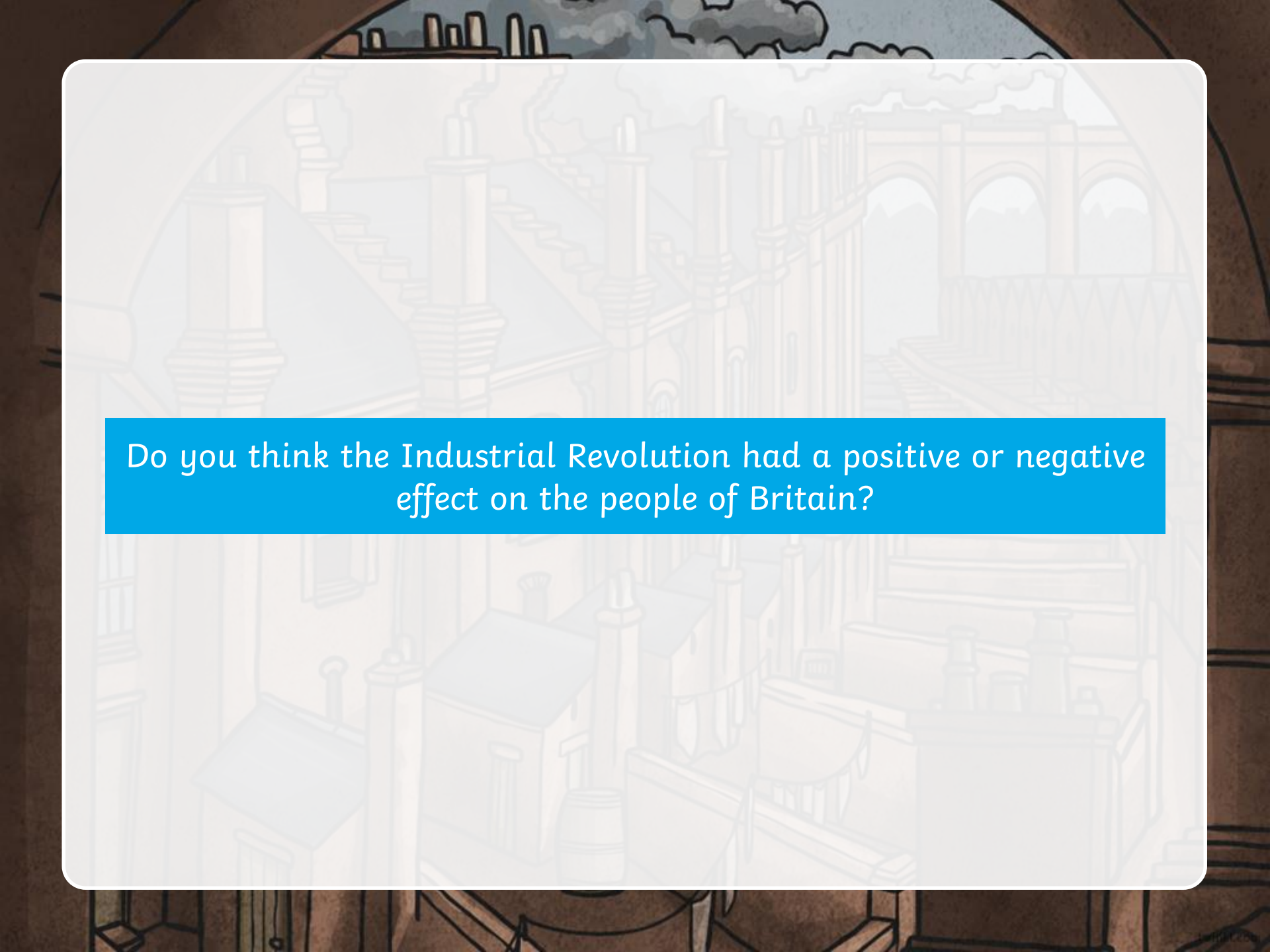


Some people had made their fortunes on the railways or in industry.



However, many people lived in poverty and suffered from poor housing, poor working conditions and health problems.





Do you think the Industrial Revolution had a positive or negative effect on the people of Britain?

Glossary

industrialised	Lots of people producing different goods in one area.
rural	The countryside.
livestock	Farm animals.
agricultural	Land that is used for farming.
migrating	Moving to a different area to find work or better living conditions.

Click the term to
return to the slide it
appears on



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