

Lesson

4

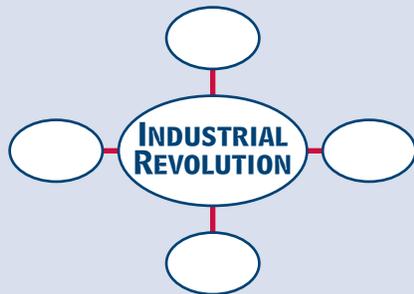
The Industrial Revolution

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

To explain how geographic factors contributed to the start of the Industrial Revolution

READING STRATEGY

Create a diagram like the one below. In the outer ovals, write the geographic factors that influenced the Industrial Revolution in the United States.



TERMS TO KNOW

Industrial Revolution, agricultural revolution, industrialization, capitalist, capital

How do you and your family get most of the things you need to live? Do you make any of these items yourself? If not, then where are most of the items made? Most likely they are manufactured in factories in the United States or in other parts of the world.

Goods we use for everyday living were not always manufactured in factories. Traditionally, most goods were made at home. However, by the late 1700s the way goods were made began to change. This change is known as the **Industrial Revolution**.

The Revolution Begins in England

Before the Industrial Revolution, goods were manufactured by hand or simple machines at home in rural areas. During the Industrial Revolution, however, more and more goods were made by power-driven machinery in factories. Factories became the best way of bringing together the machines and the workers necessary to produce goods. As a result, there was a huge increase in the number and variety of goods that were made.

The Industrial Revolution began in Great Britain, which includes England, Scotland, and Wales. There were several reasons why it started there, but many had to do with Britain's geography.

Britain had many natural resources. One resource was its fertile land, on which small farms prospered. However, in the 1700s wealthy landowners bought up much of the land, forcing the owners of small farms to move to cities to find work. The wealthy landowners introduced improved farming methods that resulted in greater crop yields. They also introduced improved methods of raising livestock. These changes in farming methods resulted in an **agricultural revolution**. The increase in farm products helped to feed the growing population in Britain's urban areas.

Britain had other natural resources that were necessary for **industrialization**, or the process of developing machines to produce goods. It had abundant supplies of coal, which were needed to fuel machines. A large supply of iron ore, which was used to make machines and tools, was also available. The region's fast-flowing rivers provided waterpower to factories. Navigable rivers were used to transport goods within the country, while many harbors allowed ships to transport goods overseas.

One of the first industries to develop in Britain was the textile, or cloth-making, industry. Inventors created machinery to do some of the work involved in making cloth, such as spinning. This machinery ran on waterpower. As a result, cloth makers built

mills along rivers. Many small farmers who had lost their land came to the mills to find work.

As industries in Britain grew, private investors and banks were needed to provide money to build more factories and buy more machines. Soon, wealthy businesspeople called **capitalists** became as important as manufacturers in the growing process of industrialization.

The Revolution Spreads

By the early 1800s, the Industrial Revolution had spread to other parts of Europe and to North America. In the United States, the Industrial Revolution began on the northeast coast in New England. The soil in New England was poor, making farming difficult. As a result, people had to find other ways of making a living.

Like Britain, New England had many resources that made industrialization possible. Rapid-flowing rivers provided the waterpower necessary to run machines. Resources such as coal and iron were located nearby. Ports were used to ship goods from the factories to markets overseas.

New England also had many investors who could provide **capital**, or money needed for invest-

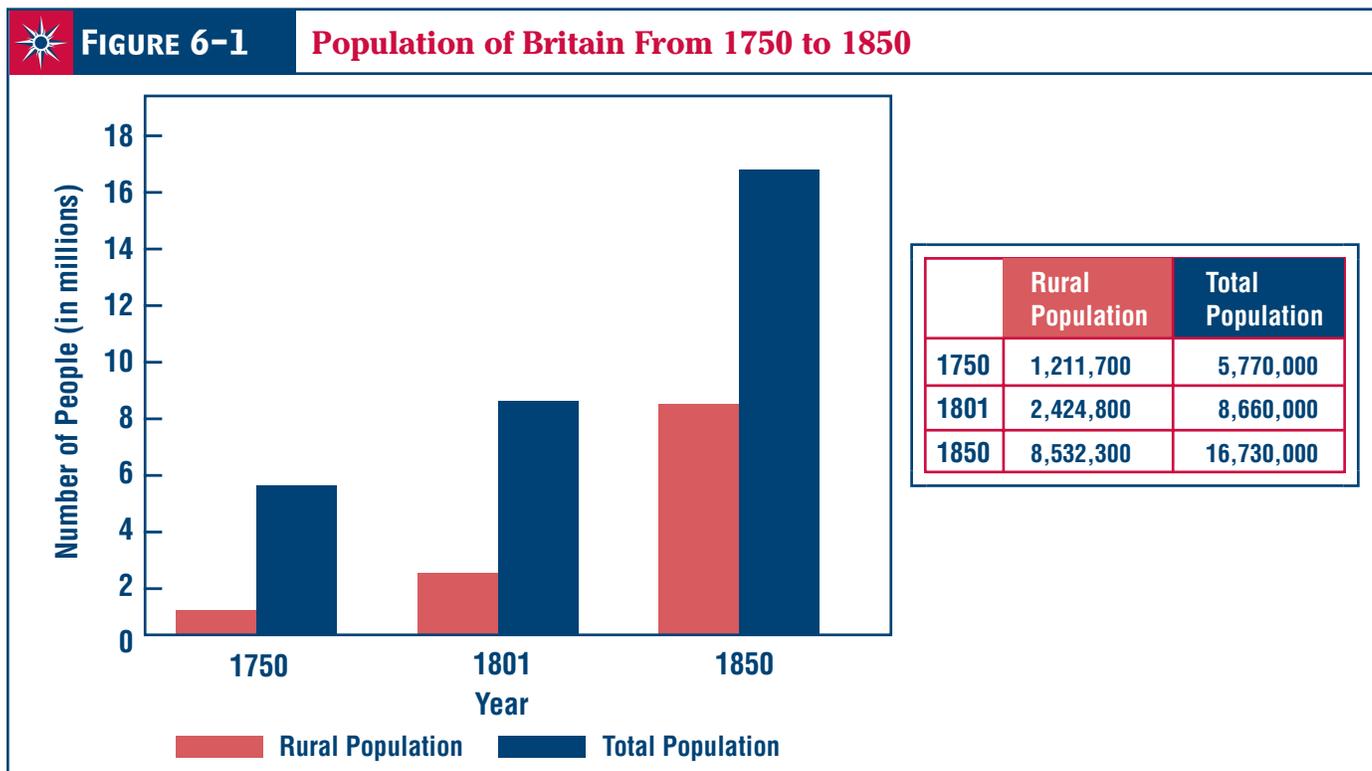
ment. As in Britain, the capital was needed to build more factories and machines.

Many workers in New England's factories were New Englanders. However, in the 1820s, many European immigrants arrived in the region looking for greater economic opportunities. Many immigrants took jobs in New England's growing industries.

Effects of the Revolution

For many centuries, most Europeans lived in rural areas. By the middle of the 1800s, however, more people lived in cities. The increasing number of factories brought people to cities to look for jobs. Look at **Figure 6-1**. What percent of the population in 1750 was urban? How did the population distribution change by 1850? How did the Industrial Revolution contribute to this change?

The Industrial Revolution was a turning point in history. It changed much of the Western world from a rural, agricultural society to an urban, industrial one. Industrialization provided people with a higher standard of living. However, it also created problems, such as pollution, that challenge the world today.



Source: *Atlas of World History*. New York: Oxford University Press, Inc.

Using Your Skills

A REVIEWING KEY TERMS

Write the meaning of each word.

1. agricultural revolution

2. Industrial Revolution

3. industrialization

4. capital

B RECALLING FACTS

Use the reading and **Figure 6-1** on page 206 to answer these questions.

1. How did the ways goods were made change as a result of the Industrial Revolution?

2. Why did the Industrial Revolution start in Great Britain?

3. In the United States, why did the Industrial Revolution start in New England?

4. How did the Industrial Revolution affect population distribution in Britain by the middle of the 1800s?
