



What were the most important inventions?

01 Rank the inventions from most important “5” to least important “1.” Compare your answers with a classmate’s.

steam engine	<input type="radio"/>
spinning jenny	<input type="radio"/>
steel plow	<input type="radio"/>
power loom	<input type="radio"/>
mechanical reaper	<input type="radio"/>

02 Read “Keep It Humming Along.” Match the elements of the table correctly.

Task	Previous tool	Newer Invention
1. making cloth	› mechanical powered spindle	› mechanical reaper
2. energy source	› wooden plow	› power loom
3. agrarian tool	› mill and windmil	› coal and electricity



Keep It Humming Along

The Industrial Revolution brought about many economic and social changes in the world. Although the historical timing of the revolution varied from region to region, it all led to a shift from a largely **agrarian** and handicraft economy to an economy based on industry and machines.

Before the 1800s, communities worldwide grew their food, and **artisans** made their own tools, mainly for personal consumption and use. Wheat was grown using a horse-powered wooden **plow**, and it was brought to a nearby **mill** or windmill to be ground, utilizing water and wind power. The wheat was sold to the local community or used by the producer to make their own bread in wood-burning ovens. Similarly, sheep were raised, and their wool was turned into yarn with a **mechanical** spindle powered with a foot pedal.

However, after the birth of machines and factories, cities grew as more people were needed in city centers to work in factories. It became cheaper and faster to mass-produce goods. The steam engine and locomotives made it possible to transport goods long distances. The spinning jenny and the power loom **expedited** the cloth and clothing-making process. The steel plow and the mechanical reaper facilitated food production. They reduced the number of agricultural workers needed, freeing people in rural areas to move to the cities and work in factories. These technological innovations used new power sources, such as coal and electricity.

03 Read the text again. Complete the summary about the Industrial Revolution with the words in bold.

The **1.** _____ society was replaced by machines. Tools such as the **2.** _____ and power sources like the **3.** _____ were replaced by more powerful ones. **4.** _____ who used **5.** _____ tools were also traded for money-saving gadgets that **6.** _____ the production process.

04 With a classmate, discuss the questions.

- › What difficulties and benefits do you imagine there were for people living before the Industrial Revolution?
- › Which period of history would you prefer to have experienced? Why?

05 Write the letter of the definition of the bolded words next to the sentence that uses it.

1. The factory workers **voiced** their dislike of the updated working hours.

2. Abraham raised his **voice** to make himself heard over the noise.

3. The inventor's notes were **peppered** with equations.

4. The chef added lots of **pepper** to the dish for seasoning.

5. Sally **cupped** her hands to drink from the stream.

6. Sean held a **cup** of water at break time.

- a. noise made from your throat
- b. sprinkled
- c. an item used for drinking
- d. a common spice
- e. expressed
- f. make into a cup-like form for holding something



07 Imagine you are a factory worker from the eighteenth century who recently moved to the city from the countryside. Write a letter to your parents describing what you are witnessing.

06 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in parentheses.

1. Mike _____ at the factory now with hope of getting hired as a shift manager. (intern)
2. Before the refrigerator was invented, people _____ their meat heavily so it would last longer. (salt)
3. Stefano _____ to be a blacksmith at the community historic center. (training)
4. Currently, the manager _____ his employees by offering bonuses to the top performers. (incentive)
5. The merchandise was _____ to the company last week. (ship)
6. The employee decided to _____ up her boss before asking for a raise. (butter)

08 With a classmate, debate the statements below.

- › People's well-being significantly improved due to the inventions of the Industrial Revolution.
- › Although the Industrial Revolution brought great growth, it wasn't worth losing the small-town communities.
- › The inventions that were created during the Industrial Revolution changed society more than the inventions we have today.
- › Life before the Industrial Revolution was better than life during it.