

Overview:

Students will learn about the Industrial Revolution, spend a day observing how the Industrial Revolution has affected their lives, and then reflect on lessons learned.

Length:

Two classes.

Instructional Plan:

1. Have students read “What Are the Origins of Modern Production?”
Lead students through a brainstorm of ways in which the Industrial Revolution has shaped their lives, considering products that have become available; the impact on schools and work; and changes to the environment, including urbanization and climate change.
2. Instruct students to keep a diary for one day, noting events in their lives that were made possible by the Industrial Revolution or that occurred differently than they might have in the pre-industrial world.
3. Ask students to reflect on thoughts from this lesson. Below are possible questions for reflection:
 - How has the Industrial Revolution affected how you work, in terms of schoolwork and/or at a job? Do you think your work would have been easier or harder in the pre-industrial world?
 - How has the Industrial Revolution affected your time? Do you think you would have had more or less free time in the pre-industrial world?
 - How has the Industrial Revolution affected your relationships with other people such as your family, friends, and neighbors?
 - How has the Industrial Revolution affected your happiness? Do you think you would have been happier or less happy in the pre-industrial world?