

CHAPTER
19
SECTION 2

Section Summary

BRITAIN LEADS THE WAY

READING CHECK

Who invented the cotton gin?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

Find the word *decades* in the underlined sentence. It comes from the Greek word *deka*, which means “ten.” Based on the meaning of the Greek root, what do you think *decades* means?

READING SKILL

Identify Causes and Effects

Identify one cause and one effect of the revolution in transportation in Britain.

The Industrial Revolution began in Britain for several reasons. Population growth was one. Another was Britain’s plentiful natural resources, such as rivers, coal, and iron. Also, the growing population and ready workforce increased the demand for goods. To increase production of goods, however, another key ingredient was needed—money. Money was necessary to start businesses. People accumulated **capital**, or money, to invest in an **enterprise**, or business. **Entrepreneurs** managed and assumed the financial risks of starting these new businesses.

The Industrial Revolution developed in Britain’s textile industry. British merchants created the **putting-out system**. In this system, raw cotton was given to peasant families. They made it into cloth, in their homes. Production was slow, however. As the demand for cloth grew, inventors came up with new machines, such as the flying shuttle and the spinning jenny. These increased production and revolutionized the British textile industry. Meanwhile, in the United States, people had to figure out how to produce enough cotton to keep up with these faster spinning and weaving machines. The cotton gin, invented by **Eli Whitney**, greatly increased the production of cotton. To house these new machines, manufacturers built the first factories. There, spinners and weavers came each day to work, instead of staying at home.

As production increased, people needed faster and cheaper ways of moving goods, too. Some capitalists invested in **turnpikes**. These toll roads soon linked every part of Britain.

The invention of the steam locomotive spurred the great revolution in transportation. It made the growth of railroads possible. The world’s first major rail line ran between the British industrial cities of **Liverpool** and **Manchester**. It started running in 1830. In the following decades, railroad travel became faster and railroad building boomed. As you can see, each change led to another, rapidly affecting the way people lived.

Review Questions

1. How did population growth lead to the Industrial Revolution?

2. How did machines change the textile industry?
