

CHAPTER
19
SECTION 3

Section Summary

SOCIAL IMPACT OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

READING CHECK

What new social class emerged during the Industrial Revolution?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

Find the word *contaminated* in the underlined sentence. What clues to the word's meaning can you find in the surrounding words, phrases, or sentences? How do the words *sewage* and *awful stench* help you figure out what *contaminated* means?

READING SKILL

Understand Effects Explain three effects of the Industrial Revolution on the lives of the workers.

The Industrial Revolution brought **urbanization**, or the movement of people to cities. Masses of people moved from farms to cities because of changes in farming, soaring population growth, and demand for workers. Almost overnight, small villages around mines grew into cities. Other cities grew up around the factories that were built in once-quiet market towns.

Those who benefited most from the Industrial Revolution were entrepreneurs. They made up a new middle class created by the Industrial Revolution. The wealthy and the middle class lived in nice neighborhoods. The poor lived in crowded tiny rooms in **tenements**, multistory buildings divided into apartments. These tenements had no running water and no sewage or sanitation system. Sewage rotted in the streets or was dumped into rivers, which contaminated drinking water and created an awful stench. This led to the spread of diseases.

Working in a factory system was very different from working on a farm. In rural villages, people worked hard, but the amount of work varied with each season. The factory system was a harsh new way of life. Working hours were long. Shifts lasted from twelve to sixteen hours, six or seven days a week. Tired workers were injured by machines that had no safety devices. Working conditions in mines were even worse than in the factories. Factories and mines also hired many boys and girls. These children often started working at age seven or eight, a few as young as five.

The early industrial age brought terrible hardships. In time, however, reformers pressed for laws to improve working conditions. **Labor unions**, or workers' organizations, won the right to ask for better wages, hours, and working conditions.

Despite the social problems created by the Industrial Revolution, it did have some positive effects. More jobs were created and wages rose. As the cost of railroad travel fell, people could travel farther for less money than ever before.

Review Questions

1. Why did people migrate from farms to cities during the Industrial Revolution?

2. What were working conditions like in factories?
