

**8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**Industrial Revolution "Create Your Own Invention" Project**

**Purpose:** Our lives have changed dramatically since the 18<sup>th</sup> Century through the invention of many important products. It was during the Industrial Revolution when inventions were created that had a profound impact on our lives today, and that have led to the technological society in which we currently live. The steam engine, cotton gin, telephone, automobile, computer and cell-phone are only a few of these innovations that have impacted our lives. What would your life be like today without your cell-phone or computer? Could you survive in a world like this?

These innovations have not only created a 'Global Village' but have allowed for the world to grow and develop as one society. They have also caused the depletion of non-renewable resources, pollution, global warming, and the depletion of the ozone layer, thereby requiring new innovations to counter these negative consequences.

**Objective:** You are scientists/inventors and your "mission" is to construct an invention that would have **benefited society** in the 1800s. Your goal is to create a **NEW** product/invention that will **improve society** and make the world a safer, more sustainable place to live for everyone. (It must not be something that has already been created.) It must be realistic and useful to our world, and most importantly **benefit/improve** our society. A toaster that turns your bread magical colors *does not* benefit society. Show insight, maturity, and creativity.

**Criteria:**

- 1.) You must work individually. You will brainstorm and decide on an invention in which to create.
- 2.) You must **create a SCALED diagram** of your invention including **DIMENSIONS**. It does not need to be functional, but needs an attempt at being realistic. You must supply your own materials.  
-Create a name for your invention. Some famous inventors over time have included their name in their product, such as Rudolph Diesel who invented the diesel engine or 'The Watt' - a unit of power familiar today when dealing with light bulbs being named after James Watt.
- 3.) **A scientific journal** that includes information about your invention must also be put together. **Your scientific journal must be in the form of a self-created bound book.**

The following information must be included:

- A detailed description of your invention
- A detailed description of why this invention is needed in our society. How will it benefit society? What is the problem in society that requires this invention to be made? How will it make our lives better?
- Include ALL materials needed to construct your invention and a brief description of how each item will be used in the construction of your project.
- After reading "Industrial Revolution People, Inventions, and Events Details of the American Industrial Revolution," answer the questions that follow in the form of journal entries. Remember to provide answers as if you were really a scientist!

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**Invention Ideas**

**Home Improvement**

Look at day to day problems in your house. Could you come up with a better tooth brush? Think

about the day to day problems that people might have faced in the 1800s. When you see some a problem, ask yourself how you could solve it.

**Weaponry/tools**

Think about the weapons/tools that were available during the 1800s. What could you invent that would be more efficient?

**Assessment:**

	<b>Star quality</b>	<b>Very Good</b>	<b>Okay</b>
<b>Invention</b>	Invention is creative and realistic.  Invention has a name and design.	Invention is creative, but may not be entirely realistic.  Invention has a design, but no name.	Invention is creative, but not realistic.  Invention is described, but has no name or design
<b>Why it is needed</b>	Project includes a detailed paragraph describing the necessity of this invention to make the world a better place.	Project includes a paragraph about why this invention makes the world a better place, but more detail is necessary.	Project includes point form notes that indicate why this invention will make the world a better place.
<b>Presentation</b>	Journal covers all criteria and it is evident that student(s) took time to prepare it.	Journal covers all criteria.	NO journal

## **Reading Passage for Background Knowledge**

### **Industrial Revolution People, Inventions, and Events Details of the American Industrial Revolution**

**By: Martin Kelly**

#### **Cotton and Cloth**

In 1794, Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin which made the separation of cotton seeds from fiber much faster. The South increased its cotton supply sending raw cotton north to be used in the manufacture of cloth. Francis C. Lowell increased the efficiency in the manufacture of cloth by bringing spinning and weaving processes together into one factory. This led to the development of the textile industry throughout New England.

In 1846, Elias Howe created the sewing machine which revolutionized the manufacture of clothing. All of a sudden, clothing began to be made in factories as opposed to at home.

#### **Interchangeable Parts**

Eli Whitney came up with the idea to use interchangeable parts in 1798 to make muskets. If standard parts were made by machine, then they could be assembled at the end much more quickly than before. This became an important part of American industry and the Second Industrial Revolution.

#### **From Agriculture to Cities**

As industries and factories arose, people moved from farms to cities. This led to other issues including overcrowding and disease. However, advances were made in agriculture too including better machines and cultivators. For example, Cyrus McCormick created the reaper which allowed quicker and cheaper harvesting of grain. John Deere created the first steel plow in 1837 helping speed up farming across the Midwest.

#### **Communication and the Industrial Revolution**

With the increased size of the United States, better communication networks became ultra important. In 1844, Samuel F. B. Morse created the telegraph and by 1860, this network ranged throughout the eastern coast to the Mississippi.

#### **Transportation**

The Cumberland Road, the first national road, was begun in 1811. This eventually became part of the Interstate 40. Further, river transportation was made efficient through the creation of the first steamboat, the *Clermont*, by Robert Fulton. This was made possible by James Watt's invention of the first reliable steam engine.

The creation of the Erie Canal created a route from the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes thereby helping stimulate the economy of New York and making New York City a great trading center.

Railroads were of supreme importance to the increase in trade throughout the United States. In fact, by the start of the Civil War, railroads linked the most important Mid West cities with the Atlantic coast. Railroads further opened the west and connected raw materials to factories and markets. A transcontinental railroad was completed in 1869 at Promontory, Utah.

With the great advances of the Industrial Revolution, inventors continued to work throughout the rest of the 19th and early 20th century on ways to make life easier while increasing productivity. The foundations set throughout the mid-1800's set the stage for inventions such as the light bulb (Thomas Edison), telephone (Alexander Bell), and the automobile (Karl Benz). Further, Ford's creation of the assembly line which made manufacturing more efficient just helped form America into a modern industrialized nation. The impact of these and other inventions of the time cannot be underestimated.

## **Background of the Industrial Revolution**

The Industrial Revolution (1820-1870) was of great importance to the economic development of the United States. The first Industrial Revolution occurred in Great Britain and Europe during the late eighteenth century. It then centered on the United States and Germany.

The Industrial Revolution itself refers to a change from hand and home production to machine and factory. The first industrial revolution was important for the inventions of spinning and weaving machines operated by water power which was eventually replaced by steam. This helped increase America's growth. However, the industrial revolution truly changed American society and economy into a modern urban-industrial state.

## **Growing Industrialization**

The real impetus for America entering the Industrial Revolution was the passage of the Embargo Act of 1807 and the War of 1812. Americans were upset over an incident with the *Chesapeake* whereby the British opened fire when they were not allowed to search the ship. They also seized four men and hung one for desertion. This resulted in much public outrage and the passage of the Embargo Act which stopped the export of American goods and effectively ended the import of goods from other nations. Eventually, America went to war with Great Britain in 1812. The war made it apparent that America needed a better transportation system and more economic independence. Therefore, manufacturing began to expand.

Industrialization in America involved three important developments. First, transportation was expanded. Second, electricity was effectively harnessed. Third, improvements were made to industrial processes such as improving the refining process and accelerating production. The government helped protect American manufacturers by passing a protective tariff.

Include the following responses in your scientific journal:

- What would be the benefits of your invention during the 1800s?
- What were some of the benefits that were actually created during that period? Provide textual evidence to support your answer.
- What effect did the railroads have on the Industrial Revolution as well as on the landscape? Include both negative and positive effects.