

The Causes of the Industrial Revolution Debate

So many historical developments happened at the right place and the right time to make Great Britain (and eventually America, Germany, France, and Italy) the spot where the Industrial Revolution began and took off. Today we will take a look at some of those and discuss how and why they were a cause of an economic and industrial shift that changed the world forever.

The historical developments that you should be aware of are:

- Proximity to waterways; access to rivers and canals,
- Geographical distribution of coal, iron, and timber
- Urbanization
- Improved agricultural productivity
- Legal protection of private property
- Access to foreign resources (colonialism)
- Accumulation of capital (extra money)

What will we do?

1. You will be randomly given one of these to defend as the MOST IMPORTANT reason for the development of the Industrial Revolution. Even if you don't agree with the development you received, you need to pretend and market it as if it's truly the most important reason behind industrialization.
2. You will get into your group with your peers who have the same historical development and come up with an opening statement defending your historical development. If you need to use resources to look up more information about your development, do so, but make it quick! You will also need to think of ways to *nicely* criticize the other groups. Be aware that all of these are important to the development of Industry, but you are trying to market your development as the most impactful. So, they will do the same!
3. Every group chooses a group member to give their opening statement (it is wise to choose someone who doesn't often like to talk on the spot to do this, since you all need to participate)! Each group gives their opening statement.
4. We debate! The teacher reserves the right to referee, call on people to keep the discussion moving, and make sure that everyone gets a chance to speak. Be aware of your own tendencies in discussions. Are you an over talker? Do you never have the guts to speak up, even if you have a great point? Challenge yourself today to either step up to the plate if you're a bit shy in discussions, or back off a bit and let others engage if you're a discussion dominator. Let's get everyone involved in the discussion!
5. Finally, we will stop the debate and discuss what we learned today! You'll complete your exit slip as you leave. It's styled as an SAQ, so you'll get a few minutes to complete it:
 - A. Explain ONE significant factor responsible for the Industrial Revolution.
 - B. Explain ANOTHER significant factor responsible for the Industrial Revolution.
 - C. Identify ONE effect of the Industrial Revolution.
(*No, we didn't do this today, but I'd like to see if you have some prior knowledge!*)