

CALIFORNIA CONTENT
STANDARD 10.3.1*The Industrial Revolution
in England*

Specific Objective: Analyze why England was the first country to industrialize.

The Industrial Revolution began in England in the mid-1700s. In the century that followed, factories and machines transformed the nation and spread throughout Europe and North America. Instead of using hand tools to make household quantities, people came to rely on machinery to produce large amounts of goods to be sold in shops.

Q: Why did the Industrial Revolution begin in England?

A: Economic Strength

- ___ During the 1600s, overseas exploration had opened **new markets** for England, and led to a thriving economy based on **money**.
- ___ British **merchants invested** money in new industries.
- ___ New financial institutions such as **banks offered business loans** that helped spur industrial growth. The most famous was the powerful **Bank of England, 1694**.

A: Geography and Natural Resources

- ___ England's **rivers** offered a dual advantage. Fast-flowing rivers were a source of water power to fuel machinery, and throughout the nation rivers provided inland transportation routes for industrial goods.
- ___ In addition, England's excellent natural **harbors** were a benefit to merchant ships.
- ___ England had rich natural resources in the form of **coal and iron mines**. Coal was a valuable source of energy to fuel machinery, and iron was used to make machines and products, such as tools and cookware.
- ___ A region in west-central England became known as **the Black Country** for its smoke clouds from factories burning coal and smelting iron.

A: Population Growth

- ___ Scientific improvements in farming during the 1700s led to more crops and healthier livestock—an **Agricultural Revolution** that brought more food to the people. Health and living conditions improved, and the population increased.
- ___ A larger population meant **greater demand** for goods and more **available labor**.

A: Political Stability

- ___ An isolated, island nation, England participated in European wars of the 18th and early 19th centuries, but never on home ground.
- ___ England's industrial growth was **not interrupted by war**.