

AIM: How can a nation become an industrial power?

Dear John,

You have been in the New World for six years. I cannot believe it has been that long. John, you have missed so much here since you have left. England is almost like a different country from the one you left behind.

How has it changed, you ask? Great Britain has become the nucleus of industrial change in all of Europe and the rest of the world. There are many reasons for this, most of which you know as well as anyone. Firstly, we, being an island of sorts, are surrounded by water, making it easy to trade, thus easily acquiring materials needed to manufacture goods and providing a wonderful route to send out all the goods once they have been made. All of our colonies, one of which you yourself are living in, provide us with needed raw materials and markets for our goods. Our government, one of the freest and fairest in all the world, fully supports the business ventures being undertaken by the new factory managers. Who works in these factories, you ask? Well, after the new enclosure laws were enacted, many people were forced off their land and moved to the cities in search of work. They found these jobs in the new manufacturing factories. The health of the people of our fair land has never been better since we have learned how to farm more efficiently, so we have experienced a population explosion of sorts, most of whom are now the new labor force for our industries. The last reason, but definitely not the least important reason, is the fact that our fair England has an abundant supply of natural resources such as steel, iron, and coal to power, and be used in, the production of goods. Wait until I tell you the best part...

1. What is the Industrial Revolution? _____

2. Why was England a perfect place for the beginning of the revolution? _____

3. How did Enclosure and the Agricultural Revolution add to the beginning of Industrialization in Europe? _____

Right after you left, we had something people have been calling an energy revolution. Inventors such as Thomas Newcomen and James Watt learned new ways to harness energy such as coal and steam, so that we now rely on these energy sources to run machines instead of human and animal strength. Watt's steam engine provided power for the early Industrial Revolution. The biggest changes have taken place in the textile industry and transportation. The early weaving of cotton into cloth was slow and expensive, but with help from the spinning Jenny and Watt's steam powered machines, the textile industry moved to factories, and output has increased dramatically. Who knows what else will soon be made in factories?

These new factories produce so many goods so quickly that new means of transportation have been needed to move the goods from place to place. Turnpikes have been built, which are roads that charge its patrons, as well as canals that connect different bodies of water so as to reduce travel time. The greatest revolution, however, has been the invention of the steam locomotive. John, these locomotives pull carriages so quickly that goods almost seem to fly to their destination. These locomotives, along with new steam powered ships, are going to make England the global supplier of newly factory manufactured goods!

You have to come home soon, John. We miss you so much, and I'm afraid that if you are gone much longer, you won't be able to recognize home when you do get here.

*Your Loving Sister,
Elizabeth*

4. Why do you think the Energy Revolution helped to spark the Industrial Revolution? _____

5. How did transportation change in response the growth of industry? _____

6. Do you agree with the following statement, "necessity id the mother of all inventions."? Why or why not?
