**What is Industrialisation?**

**Industrialisation which took place from the 18th to 19th centuries, and was a period during which predominantly agricultural, rural societies in Europe and America became industrial and urban.**

Prior to the Industrial Revolution, which began in Britain in the late 1700s, manufacturing was often done in people’s homes, using hand tools or basic machines. Industrialisation marked a shift to powered, special-purpose machinery, factories and mass production. The iron and textile industries, along with the development of the steam engine, played central roles in Industrialisation which also saw improved systems of transportation, communication and banking. While industrialisation brought about an increased volume and variety of manufactured goods and an improved standard of living for some, it also resulted in often grim employment and living conditions for the poor and working classes.

**Life during Industrialisation**

Industrialisation brought about a greater volume and variety of factory-produced goods and raised the standard of living for many people, particularly for the middle and upper classes. However, life for the poor and working classes continued to be filled with challenges. Wages for those who laboured in factories were low and working conditions could be dangerous and monotonous. Unskilled workers had little job security and were easily replaceable. Children were part of the labour force and often worked long hours and were used for such highly hazardous tasks as cleaning the machinery. In the early 1860s, an estimated one-fifth of the workers in Britain’s textile industry were younger than 15. Industrialisation also meant that some craftspeople were replaced by machines. Additionally, urban, industrialised areas were unable to keep pace with the flow of arriving workers from the countryside, resulting in inadequate, overcrowded housing and polluted, unsanitary living conditions in which disease was rampant. Conditions for Britain’s working-class began to gradually improve by the later part of the 19th century, as the government instituted various labour reforms and workers gained the right to form trade unions.

1. **Use this sheet to fill in the mind map about the impact of Industrialisation on society**

**Discuss:**

1. **How has life changed since industrialisation?**
2. **How has life stayed the same?**