

Agenda:

Guiding Questions:

1. What countries today have high industrial outputs?
 2. Are their cultural values reflected in this?
 3. What were the conditions like for workers during the industrial revolution?
 - “Do Now” - industrial outputs today?
 - Recap of budget assignment - did you need your children to work?
 - Sadler reports
 - Speech to the Queen
-
- HW - To what extent did people in 19th century Great Britain experience the Industrial Revolution differently?

Child Employment in the United Kingdom in 1851

Mining

Males under 15	37,300
Females under 15	1,400
Males 15-20	50,100
Females over 15	5,400
Total under 15 as % of workforce	13%

Textiles and Dyeing

Males under 15	93,800
Females under 15	147,700
Males 15-20	92,600
Females over 15	780,900
Total under 15 as % of workforce	15%

Source: Booth, C. "On the Occupations of the People of the United Kingdom, 1801-81." *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society* (J.S.S.) XLIX (1886): 314-436. Data retrieved from: <https://eh.net/encyclopedia/child-labor-during-the-british-industrial-revolution/>

Labor Conditions and Labor Reform

By the early nineteenth century, the Industrial Revolution had spread from England and was beginning to transform Europe from a rural to an urban society. In England, this transformation often depressed the living standards of workers beneath even those of the cottage manufacturing system of an earlier era. In doing so, however, it paved the way for its own reform, for it bared to the public eye in an aggravated form conditions that had long existed but had passed relatively unnoticed. Poverty and misery could be overlooked as long as the workers remained scattered about the countryside, but once they were congregated in the hideous slums of the Midlands industrial centers, their plight became too obvious to remain unheeded. Consequently, social reform became the order of the day.

Reports on labor conditions were commissioned by Parliament. Two of the most famous are the Ashley report on conditions in the mines, and the Sadler report on child labor. These two reports helped encourage Parliament to pass regulations and laws to improve labor conditions.

Your group is tasked by Parliament to review the enclosed documents from the Ashley and Sadler reports. You must each individually analyze and complete the questions on two documents. Then, together, your group must present to the Parliament and Queen Victoria a list of recommendations to improve labor conditions. Use the attached sheet to guide your presentation. You must have a **minimum** of 3 recommendations and you must support your recommendations with evidence from the Sadler and Ashley reports. You must also be prepared to answer questions by the Queen about your recommendations and findings.

No. 116. — Sarah Gooder, aged 8 years.

I'm a trapper in the Gawber pit. It does not tire me, but I have to trap without a light and I'm scared. I go at four and sometimes half past three in the morning, and come out at five and half past. I never go to sleep. Sometimes I sing when I've light, but not in the dark; I dare not sing then. I don't like being in the pit. I am very sleepy when I go sometimes in the morning. I go to Sunday-schools and read Reading made Easy. She knows her letters, and can read little words. They teach me to pray. She repeated the Lord's Prayer, not very perfectly, and ran on with the following addition:-- "God bless my father and mother, and sister and brother, uncles and aunts and cousins, and everybody else, and God bless me and make me a good servant. Amen." I have heard tell of Jesus many a time. I don't know why he came on earth, I'm sure, and I don't know why he died, but he had stones for his head to rest on. I would like to be at school far better than in the pit.

Source: Testimony included in the Ashley Report.

1. What kind of work and conditions does this person describe?
2. What do you think is the most important piece of information included in this testimony? Why?

Document 2

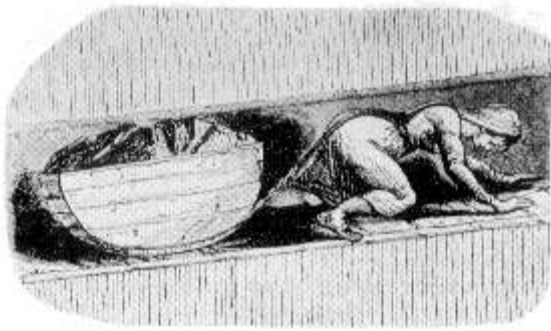
No. 14— Isabella Read, 12 years old, coal-bearer

Works on mother's account, as father has been dead two years. Mother bides at home, she is troubled with bad breath, and is sair weak in her body from early labour. I am wrought with sister

and brother, it is very sore work; cannot say how many rakes or journeys I make from pit's bottom to wall face and back, thinks about 30 or 25 on the average; the distance varies from 100 to 250 fathom.

I carry about 1 cwt. and a quarter on my back; have to stoop much and creep through water, which is frequently up to the calves of my legs. When first down fell frequently asleep while waiting for coal from heat and fatigue.

I do not like the work, nor do the lassies, but they are made to like it. When the weather is warm there is difficulty in breathing, and frequently the lights go out.



Source: Testimony and sketch included in the Ashley Report

3. What kind of work and conditions does this person describe?
4. What do you think is the most important piece of information included in this testimony? Why?

Document 3

Evidence Given Before the Sadler Committee

Joshua Drake, called in; and Examined.

You say you would prefer moderate labour and lower wages; are you pretty comfortable upon your present wages? --

I have no wages, but two days a week at present; but when I am working at some jobs we can make a little, and at others we do very poorly.

When a child gets 3 shillings week, does that go much towards its subsistence?

--No, it will not keep it as it should do.

[If] they reduced the hours of labor, would they not get less?

— They would get a halfpenny a day less, but I would rather have less wages and less work.

Do you receive any parish assistance?

— No.

Why do you allow your children to go to work at those places where they are ill-treated or over-worked?

— Necessity compels a man that has children to let them work.

Then you would not allow your children to go to those factories under the present system, if it was not from necessity?

— No.

Supposing there was a law passed to limit the hours of labour to eight hours a day, or something of that sort, of course you are aware that a manufacturer could not afford to pay them the same wages?

— No, I do not suppose that they would, but at the same time I would rather have it, and I believe that it would bring me into employ; and if I lost 5d. a day from my children's work, and I got half-a-crown myself, it would be better.

How would it get you into employ?

— By finding more employment at the machines, and work being more regularly spread abroad, and divided amongst the people at large. One man is now regularly turned off into the street, whilst another man is running day and night.

You mean to say, that if the manufacturers were to limit the hours of labour, they would employ more people?

— Yes.

5. What kind of work and conditions does this person describe?
6. What do you think is the most important piece of information included in this testimony?
Why?

Document 4

MR. MATTHEW CRABTREE, called in; and Examined.

In what situation were you in that mill?

- I was a piecener.

Will you state to this Committee whether piecening is a very laborious employment for children, or not?

- It is a very laborious employment. Pieceners are continually running to and fro, and on their feet the whole day.

The duty of the piecener is to take the cardings from one part of the machinery, and to place them on another?

- Yes.

So that the labour is not only continual, but it is unabated to the last?

- It is unabated to the last.

Do you not think, from your own experience, that the speed of the machinery is so calculated as to demand the utmost exertions of a child supposing the hours were moderate?

- It is as much as they could do at the best; they are always upon the stretch, and it is commonly very difficult to keep up with their work.

State the condition of the children toward the latter part of the day, who have thus to keep up with the machinery.

- It is as much as they do when they are not very much fatigued to keep up with their work, and toward the close of the day, when they come to be more fatigued, they cannot keep up with it very well, and the consequence is that they are beaten to spur them on.

Were you beaten under those circumstances?

- Yes.

Frequently?

- Very frequently.

And principally at the latter end of the day?

- Yes.

And is it your belief that if you had not been so beaten, you should not have got through the work?

- I should not if I had not been kept up to it by some means.

Does beating then principally occur at the latter end of the day, when the children are exceedingly fatigued?

- It does at the latter end of the day, and in the morning sometimes, when they are very drowsy, and have not got rid of the fatigue of the day before.

What were you beaten with principally?

- A strap.

Anything else?

- Yes, a stick sometimes; and there is a kind of roller which runs on the top of the machine called a billy, perhaps two or three yards in length, and perhaps an inch and a half or more in diameter; the circumference would be four or five inches; I cannot speak exactly.

Were you beaten with that instrument?

- Yes.

Have you yourself been beaten, and have you seen other children struck severely with that roller?

- I have been struck very severely with it myself, so much so as to knock me down, and I have seen other children have their heads broken with it.

You think that it is a general practice to beat the children with the roller?

- It is.

You do not think then that you were worse treated than other children in the mill?

- No, I was not, perhaps not so bad as some were.

In those mills is chastisement towards the latter part of the day going on perpetually?

- Perpetually.

So that you can hardly be in a mill without hearing constant crying?

- Never an hour, I believe.

Source: Testimony included in the Sadler Report

7. What kind of work and conditions does this person describe?
8. What do you think is the most important piece of information included in this testimony?
Why?

Document 5

MR. MATTHEW CRABTREE, called in; and Examined.

Were there girls as well as boys employed in this manner?

- Yes.

Were they more tenderly treated by the overlookers, or were they worked and beaten in the same manner?

- There was no difference in their treatment.

Were they beaten by the overlookers, or by the slubber?

- By the slubber.

But the overlooker must have been perfectly aware of the treatment that the children endured at the mill?

- Yes; and sometimes the overlooker beat them himself; but the man that they wrought under had generally the management of them.

Did he pay them their wages?

- No; their wages were paid by the master.

But the overlooker of the mill was perfectly well aware that they could not have performed the duty exacted from them in the mill without being thus beaten?

- I believe he was.

You seem to say that this beating is absolutely necessary, in order to keep the children up to their work; is it universal throughout all factories?

- I have been in several other factories, and I have witnessed the same cruelty in them all.

Did you say that you were beaten for being too late?

- Yes.

Is it not the custom in many of the factories to impose fines upon children for being too late, instead of beating them?

- It was not in that factory.

What then were the fines by which you lost the money you gained by your long hours?

- The spinner could not get on so fast with his work when we happened to be too late; he could not begin his work so soon, and therefore it was taken by him.

Did the slubber pay you your wages?

- No, the master paid our wages.

And the slubber took your fines from you?

- Yes.

Then you were fined as well as beaten?

- There was nothing deducted from the ordinary scale of wages, but only from that received for over-hours, and I had only that taken when I was too late, so that the fine was not regular.

When you were not working over-hours, were you so often late as when you were working over-hours?

- Yes.

You were not very often late whilst you were not working over-hours?

- Yes, I was often late when I was not working over-hours; I had to go at six o'clock in the morning, and consequently had to get up at five to eat my breakfast and go to the mill, and if I failed to get up by five I was too late; and it was nine o'clock before we could get home, and then we went to bed; in the best times I could not be much above eight hours at home, reckoning dressing and eating my meals, and everything.

Was it a blanket-mill in which you worked?

- Yes.

Did you ever know that the beatings to which you allude inflicted a serious injury upon the children?

- I do not recollect any very serious injury, more than that they had their heads broken, if that may be called a serious injury; that has often happened; I, myself, had no more serious injury than that.

You say that the girls as well as the boys were employed as you have described, and you observed no difference in their treatment?

- No difference.

The girls were beat in this unmerciful manner?

- They were.

They were subject, of course, to the same bad effects from this over working?

- Yes.

Source: Testimony included in the Sadler Report

9. What kind of work and conditions does this person describe?

10. What do you think is the most important piece of information included in this testimony?
Why?

Document 6

Evidence Given Before the Sadler Committee

Mr. John Hall, called in; and Examined.

Will you describe to the Committee the position in which the children stand to piece in a worsted mill, as it may serve to explain the number and severity of those cases of distortion which occur?

— At the top to the spindle there is a fly goes across, and the child takes hold of the fly by the ball of his left hand, and he throws the left shoulder up and the right knee inward; he has the thread to get with the right hand, and he has to stoop his head down to see what he is doing; they throw the right knee inward in that way, and all the children I have seen, that bend in the right knee. I knew a family, the whole of whom were bent outwards as a family complaint, and one of those boys was sent to a worsted-mill, and first he became straight in his right knee, and then he became crooked in it the other way.

11. What kind of work and conditions does this person describe?

12. What do you think is the most important piece of information included in this testimony?
Why?

Document 7

Evidence Given Before the Sadler Committee

Elizabeth Bentley, called in; and Examined.

What age are you? — Twenty-three.

Where do you live? — At Leeds.

What time did you begin to work at a factory? — When I was six years old.

At whose factory did you work? — Mr. Busk's.

What kind of mill is it? — Flax-mill.

What was your business in that mill? — I was a little doffer.

What were your hours of labour in that mill? — From 5 in the morning till 9 at night, when they were thronged.

For how long a time together have you worked that excessive length of time? — For about half a year.

What were your usual hours when you were not so thronged? — From 6 in the morning till 7 at night.

What time was allowed for your meals? — Forty minutes at noon.

Had you any time to get your breakfast or drinking? — No, we got it as we could.

And when your work was bad, you had hardly any time to eat it at all? — No; we were obliged to leave it or take it home, and when we did not take it, the overlooker took it, and gave it to his pigs.

Do you consider doffing a laborious employment? — Yes.

Explain what it is you had to do? — When the frames are full, they have to stop the frames, and take the flyers off, and take the full bobbins off, and carry them to the roller; and then put empty ones on, and set the frame going again.

Does that keep you constantly on your feet? — Yes, there are so many frames, and they run so quick.

Your labour is very excessive? — Yes; you have not time for any thing.

Suppose you flagged a little, or were too late, what would they do? — Strap us.

Are they in the habit of strapping those who are last in doffing? — Yes.

Constantly? — Yes.

Girls as well as boys? — Yes.

Have you ever been strapped? — Yes.

Severely? — Yes.

Could you eat your food well in that factory? — No, indeed I had not much to eat, and the little I had I could not eat it, my appetite was so poor, and being covered with dust; and it was no use to take it home, I could not eat it, and the overlooker took it, and gave it to the pigs.

You are speaking of the breakfast? — Yes.

How far had you to go for dinner? — We could not go home to dinner.

Where did you dine? — In the mill.

Did you live far from the mill? — Yes, two miles.

Had you a clock? — No, we had not.

Supposing you had not been in time enough in the morning at these mills, what would have been the consequence? — We should have been quartered.

What do you mean by that? — If we were a quarter of an hour too late, they would take off half an hour; we only got a penny an hour, and they would take a halfpenny more.

The fine was much more considerable than the loss of time? — Yes.

Were you also beaten for being too late? — No, I was never beaten myself, I have seen the boys beaten for being too late.

Were you generally there in time? — Yes; my mother had been up at 4 o'clock in the morning, and at 2 o'clock in the morning; the colliers used to go to their work about 3 or 4 o'clock, and when she heard them stirring she has got up out of her warm bed, and gone out and asked them the time; and I have

sometimes been at Hunslet Car at 2 o'clock in the morning, when it was streaming down with rain, and we have had to stay until the mill was opened.

13. What kind of work and conditions does this person describe?

14. What do you think is the most important piece of information included in this testimony?
Why?

Document 8

Evidence Given Before the Sadler Committee

Peter Smart, called in; and Examined.

You say you were locked up night and day? — Yes.

Do the children ever attempt to run away? — Very often.

Were they pusued and brought back again? — Yes, the overseer pursued them, and brought them back.

Did you ever attempt to run away? — Yes, I ran away twice.

And you were brought back? — Yes; and I was sent up to the master's loft, and thrashed with a whip for running away.

Were you bound to this man? — Yes, for six years.

By whom were you bound? — My mother got 15s. for the six years.

Do you know whether the children were, in point of fact, compelled to stop during the whole time for which they were engaged? — Yes, they were.

By law? — I cannot say by law; but they were compelled by the master; I never saw any law used there but the law of their own hands.

To what mill did you next go? — To Mr. Webster's, at Battus Den, within eleven miles of [Dundee](#).

In what situation did you act there? — I acted as overseer.

At 17 years of age? — Yes.

Did you inflict the same punishment that you yourself had experienced? — I went as an overseer; not as a slave, but as a slave-driver.

What were the hours of labour in that mill? — My master told me that I had to produce a certain quantity of yarn; the hours were at that time fourteen; I said that I was not able to produce the quantity of yarn that was required; I told him if he took the timepiece out of the mill I would produce that quantity, and after that time I found no difficulty in producing the quantity.

How long have you worked per day in order to produce the quantity your master required? — I have wrought nineteen hours.

Was this a water-mill? — Yes, water and steam both.

To what time have you worked? — I have seen the mill going till it was past 12 o'clock on the Saturday night.

So that the mill was still working on the Sabbath morning? — Yes.

Were the workmen paid by the piece, or by the day? — No, all had stated wages.

Did not that almost compel you to use great severity to the hands then under you? — Yes; I was compelled often to beat them, in order to get them to attend to their work, from their being over-wrought.

Were not the children exceedingly fatigued at that time? — Yes, exceedingly fatigued.

Were the children bound in the same way in that mill? — No; they were bound from one year's end to another, for twelve months.

Did you keep the hands locked up in the same way in that mill? — Yes, we locked up the mill; but we did not lock the [bothy](#).

Did you find that the children were unable to pursue their labour properly to that extent? — Yes; they have been brought to that condition, that I have gone and fetched up the doctor to them, to see what was the matter with them, and to know whether they were able to rise or not able to rise; they were not at all able to rise; we have had great difficulty in getting them up.

When that was the case, how long have they been in bed, generally speaking? — Perhaps not above four or five hours in their beds.

15. What kind of work and conditions does this person describe?
16. What do you think is the most important piece of information included in this testimony?
Why?