

WORKSHEET:

RADICAL CHANGE OF SOCIETY

The term "Industrial Revolution" refers to the rapid change of the technical production engineering caused by scientific progress and technical development, and the connected economic and social changes within the society.

Assignment: Name the important characteristics of this process in the 18th and 19th century. Which two main aspects are representative for the Industrial Revolution? Which social fields were particularly affected by changes?

Answers:

1.

2.

3.

WORKSHEET:

TERRIBLE WORKING CONDITIONS

The everyday work life in the newly developed industrial centres was extremely hard. Machines dictated the processes and the working hours of the labourers were very long. They worked in dark, dusty and noisy factory buildings. Women and children had to contribute to the family's living, and they often earned much less than the men.

Assignment: How long were the working hours per day on average? Describe, how a working day might have looked like for a child in the textile industry. What happened if the head of a family was no longer able to work because he had fallen ill?

Answers:

1.

2.

3.

WORKSHEET:

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

In the first half of the 19th century there was no social insurance in Germany. Therefore public welfare for the poor was essential to relieve the widely spread poverty and suffering. The church and single entrepreneurs tried to improve the living conditions of the working class.

Assignment: Which actions did the entrepreneurs take to improve the living conditions of the workers? What was the role of the church in this matter? Which decisive steps did Bismarck introduce?

Answers:

1.

2.

3.

WORKSHEET: MARX AND ENGELS

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels were convinced that the unjust circumstances and the serious misery of the working class could only be abolished by disempowering the capitalists. Karl Marx analysed and criticized capitalism and made propaganda for a radical overthrow of the existing social circumstances as a solution.

Assignment: What is the title of the work where Karl Marx developed the theory of a different social order? What was the solution for the social question in his opinion? What is the most familiar slogan of the labour movement?

Answers:

1.

2

3.

WORKSHEET:

LABOUR ORGANIZATIONS AND PARTIES

From the middle of the 19th century, the working class started to join forces. The first associations, trade unions and parties came into existence. The workers struggled for an unemployment insurance, higher wages and better working conditions. They started to resist their lack of rights and the superiority of the entrepreneurs who – on their part – tried to keep hold of their privileges with all their might.

Assignment: What were the reasons for the workers to establish trade unions? Which means did they use to achieve their interests? Who formed the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) and when?

Answers:

1

2

3.

