Britain 1750–1900

How did Britain Change Between 1750 and 1900?

YOU WILL NEED TO READ THROUGH THE PPT AND COMPLETE SOME RESEARCH TASKS AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS. You will also need to complete the worksheet that has been provided. Create the table on a new slide and answer the questions on a news slide.
Learning objectives

• Explore what Britain was like in 1750.

• Compare what Britain was like in 1750 to what it had become by 1900.

• Compare the social, political and economic organization of Britain in 1750 and 1900.
What changed between 1750 and 1900?

- Population
- Work
- Health
- Transport
- Education
- Politics
What was the Population in 1750 - Research

- England and Wales – 6.5 million
- Scotland – approx. 1.5 million
- GB = approx. 8 million
What was the Population in 1900 - Research

- 39,875,900
All farming is done by hand and horse power. This means that many people are needed to work the land.

Most of us are involved in farming either for ourselves or for a landowner or farmer.
Working in 1750 – industry

Manufacturing industries were small, and goods were produced in people’s own homes or in small workshops.

Any machinery (like spinning wheels and looms) was powered by human, horse or water power.

Producing goods took a long time, so the products were relatively expensive to buy.
Britain is a global industrial giant! The British coal, iron, steel and textile industries lead the world.

Working in 1900 – industry

By 1900, most manufacturing took place in large factories, using heavy, steam-powered machinery.
By 1900, farming has changed too! We have new machines that mean we need fewer workers in the fields.

I’m still working though!
Think! Think back to what work was like in 1750. Answer the following questions...

- **Where did most people live?** Most people lived in the countryside. About 85% of the population.

- **What kind of work did they do?** Farm work and agriculture

- **What equipment did they use?** Man, water and horse powered tools and farming equipment.

What had changed by 1900?

Most people lived and worked in towns and cities. About 85%. In cities, people mostly worked in mills and factories in the steel, textile and coal industries. Rural work was mostly done by machinery which required fewer workers in the fields. Horses were still used for farm work to pull machines.
Transport – getting about in 1750

Roads were very poor in 1750 – many were little more than muddy tracks. It could take two weeks to travel from the north of England to the south.

Some roads were being improved by Turnpike Trusts. These organizations charged travellers a toll and used the money to maintain the roads.

Travelling by sea or river was often the quickest way to get from one place to another.

The first canals were built in the 1770s.
Transport – getting about in 1900

The invention of steam power revolutionised transport in the 19th century. By 1900:

- **steam trains** made travel to all parts of Britain easy and affordable for most people
- **steam ships** enabled Britain to export huge quantities of manufactured goods across the world
- many **canals** were now redundant
- **roads** were better than they had been in 1750, but travel by road was still slow. The car had been invented but was a very rare sight
Politics in 1750

I am King George II. I might be the king, but I have to obey Parliament. They decide the laws these days.

Don’t think the people run this country though. Only rich male landowners are allowed to vote – less than 5% of the population!
I am Queen Victoria. I have been on the throne for 63 years. Things have changed since George’s day.

60% of men who are 21 or older can now vote. Parliament is no longer just filled with rich landowners, and it has passed health and education laws to improve the lives of poor people.
Education in 1750

Only the sons of the wealthy and the clergy went to school in England. Girls from wealthy families were taught at home. Only about half of working class men, and very few working class women, could read or write.

There were Sunday schools run by churches, which taught people the scriptures and how to read them.

In Scotland, every church had a school, which taught ordinary people to read and write.

There were just seven universities in the whole of Britain. Only men were allowed to go to university.
By 1900, all children between the ages of 5 and 11 had to go to school, by law.

Most people could now read and write.

Education centred on reading, writing and arithmetic. History, geography and basic science were taught as well, but girls often did sewing and cooking instead.

Why do you think girls were taught different subjects from boys? Because men and women had different roles in society. Men mostly worked as ‘breadwinners’ and women were child bearers and home makers.

There were now 17 universities in Britain. Some allowed female students to attend, but they were not awarded degrees.
Health in 1750

In 1750, people did not understand what caused disease, so cures were still based on superstition and ‘old wives’ tales’.

Few people could afford doctors, and most relied on herbal medicine.

No-one knew about germs, or how infection was spread.

Surgery was still very basic and dangerous, and was performed without anaesthetics or antiseptics.
Health in 1900

Great advances were made in medicine and science in the second half of the 19th century. By 1900:

- Louis Pasteur had discovered the link between *germs* and disease
- Diseases such as smallpox could be prevented by *vaccination*
- Surgical operations had improved with the development of *anaesthetics* and *antiseptics*
- *Public Health Acts* forced local authorities to clean up their towns, supply clean water and build proper sewers, making them safer and healthier places to live.
Questions

1. How did life in Britain change between 1750 and 1900? See extra slides. 20, 21, 22 & 23.

2. When would you rather have lived – 1750 or 1900? Explain your answer. 1900 because there were jobs and education, less hunger and poverty and better healthcare and conditions for the poor.

3. Compare life in 1900 with life today. Choose three of the most important changes and explain why you have chosen them. See slide 24.
Transport

- Roads were very poor in 1750 – many were little more than muddy tracks. It could take 2 weeks to get from one part of the country to another, travelling by foot, horse or horse drawn cart or carriage.

- By 1900, the invention of steam engines meant that travel by rail or boat was much quicker and goods could be exported all over the world.

  - Canals for transport had come and gone during that period.

  - Cars had been invented, although there still were very few about and roads had been improved.
Politics

• In 1750 King George II was on the throne. However, laws were made by parliament.

  ❖ Only rich, male, landowners - <5% of the population- could vote.

• By 1900, Queen Victoria had been queen for 63 years.

  ❖ 60% of the male population over age 21 could now vote and there were some members of parliament who were not rich landowners.

  ❖ Laws had been passed to improve conditions for the poor.
Education

• In 1750, only the **sons** of the wealthy and the clergy went to school in England.

  ✤ Girls from wealthy families were taught at home.

  ✤ Only about half of working class men, and very few working class women, could read or write.

• By 1900 all children age between 5, 11 had to go to school by law.

  ✤ Most people could now read and write.

  ✤ Education centred on reading, writing and maths. Geography, history and science were taught as well, but girls often did cooking and sewing instead.
Health

• In 1750 people did still not understand diseases and germs. Their only medicines were herbal remedies.
  - Drs were expensive and most people couldn’t afford them.
  - Surgery was basic and dangerous.
  - Public Health was poor as there were no sanitation laws regarding clean water and sewerage systems.
• By 1900, Louis Pasteur had discovered the link between disease and germs and antiseptics were now available.
  - Diseases such as smallpox could be prevented by vaccination.
  - Surgery had improved and anaesthetics were now available.
  - Public Health had improved as laws had been passed, ruling that local governments created clean water and sewerage systems.
Compare life in 1900 with life today. Choose three of the most important changes and explain why you have chosen them.

• Transport – air travel, faster safer cars, better roads. Electric trains. Faster, safer sea travel.

This has meant that people have been able to travel more often and further. Many people have travelled to other countries. Imports and exports and international trade have increased.

• Sexism – the roles of men and women. Women can vote. Women can get university degrees and work in jobs that men used to do, so they don’t have to marry. There is more equality.

• Health – We have the NHS so people don’t have to pay for Drs or hospitals. Many advances in medicine and surgery. Much less poverty or hunger. Public health is better.

• Machinery

• Internet