Revolution + technology: Did the Industrial Revolution only create 'horrors' for people?

Sheet

Background information

- The industrial revolution happened in Britain after 1750. It was a period categorised by the growth of factories which relied on new machines to operate but also in dramatic changes to society itself.
- Industry became more productive—a machine could do the work of many people.
- Towns and cities grew rapidly as people moved here to work in newly built factories.

Timeline The Industrial Revolution was the transition to new manufacturing processes Thomas Newcomen invents the first practical Steam Engine lames Watt patents his improved Steam Engine **Emdund Cartwright** invents the Eli Whitney invents the Cotton Richard Trevithick invents the steam-powered Locomotive John Deere invents the Steel Plow 1844 Samuel Morse invents the Telegraph 1846 Elias Howe invents the Sewing 1876 **Alexander Graham Bell patents** the Telephone Thomas Edison perfects the Incandescent Light Bulb

Secondary interpretation/ debate about period

'During the Industrial Revolution lots of people including journalists and social reformers had been describing the horrors of what they observed but the situation began to grow worse in the 1870's. The poor were forced into fewer, more densely packed spaces. Pockets of poverty, crime and misery grew throughout cities.'

The Five: Untold Lives of the Women Killed by Jack the Ripper by Hallie Rubenhold.

Key knowledge 1: What caused the Industrial Revolution?

- A number of factors worked in Britain's favour including access to: raw materials such as coal and iron, a growing population, new inventions and entrepreneurs setting up factories.
- Britain also had access to a vast Empire—it was able to take raw
 materials such as cotton from its Empire which could then be turned
 into clothing and sold at higher prices. The Empire also provided
 people to work in factories, on farms and in gathering materials.

Key knowledge 2: What social changes happened within Britain?

- Movement from countryside to towns and cities.
- New employment in factories—including for small children.
- Rise of protest movements including the Luddites and the Swing movement—angry that people lost jobs because machines and factories could produce more than a person.
- Rapid growth of towns and cities meant that housing was built quickly and poorly.
- Rise in disease—particularly cholera in towns and cities as sanitation was poor.

Key knowledge 3: What inventions/projects did the Industrial Revolution bring?

- Steam engine allows factories to be built that are powered—able to use large machines which produce items faster than people.
- Trains are developed allowing material to be transported quickly.
- The government begins to actively be involved in public health— Public Health Act of 1848 (Edwin Chadwick), London Sewers by Joseph Bazalgette in 1866, funding Edward Jenner's Smallpox vaccinations.