22.6.20

History lesson 2

**Factory & work during the Industrial Revolution**

**Resources: PowerPoint and question worksheet.**

Today pupils will be investigating why factories emerged during the Industrial Revolution and what it was like to work in one, especially for children.

They should follow all of the instructions in the PowerPoint and complete all of the tasks set. There are links to two informative videos throughout the PowerPoint that summarise what they have read. For the thought-provoking tasks (questions) the answers are included in the PowerPoint.

The main task is for pupils to read the sources provided and use them to answer the questions in full sentences.

**Answers:**

1. According to source A, some of the accidents that occurred in factories during the 19th century were that sometimes children’s arms and hands were caught in the machinery; in many instances the muscles and the skin is stripped down to the bone, and in some instances a finger or two might be lost. The sources says that there were ‘terrible accidents’ in factories.
2. Source A tells us that the children worked in dangerous conditions, where there was no regard for their safety or well-being. They were seen as something to be used (a commodity) for production, rather than keeping them safe, happy and educated. It is like nobody cared about them.
3. According to source B, anyone who arrived late to work was punished by being whipped with a horse whip. They would probably be punished for other things too, like not working fast enough or talking too much.
4. Pupils own words to describe this treatment (there should be 5 and they should be able to explain their choices verbally).
5. According to source C, children working in the factories worked for 16 hours with little breaks. They had to start work at 4am. These are very long hours and the children must have been exhausted, and will have had no free time to spend with family, play or do the things they enjoyed. (pupil’s own explanation).
6. In the picture we can see scavengers and pieces at work. It seems as though two of the boys are fighting in front of the machine which would have been very dangerous. There is a children crawling from underneath a machine, it would have been their job to ‘scavenge’ any loose threads. It looks like the adults and children are working on the machinery.
7. Due to the fact they were small, children were often used to crawl under the machines and collect any loose threads or clean underneath them. They were also used to operate the small bobbins on the looms as their hands and feet were smaller than an adults’ so they get to them more easily and quicker, although it was extremely dangerous. The worst jobs were usually reserved for the children.
8. John Fielden said that factory Work is unsuitable for children because it ‘affects the physical growth of a child’ because they are often required to stay in one position for a long period of time or do a job that is very repetitive and only uses one set of muscles, making them grow deformed.
9. Working in factory would affect a child’s physical growth because as it says in source E, they are often required to stay in the same crouched down position for a long time, or only using one set of muscles which would cause repetitive strain injury. This is a serious injury for an adult, but it is even worse for a child because their muscles are still growing and developing so they would grow deformed.

**Plenary answer**

Taking into account the advantages of working in a factory, pupils should consider whether it was worth the risks for children. To stretch them, pupils have also been asked to compare working in a factory to working in a coal mine. They were both dangerous jobs, but pupils might identify that factories had slightly lower risks and at least they weren’t underground and had some advantages. Although it would be preferable for a child not to work at all, this was just not the case for poor children during this period.