Industrial Revolution
Life in English Factories

English Factory System
- First adopted in England in the 1750s, as a method for manufacturing
- Involved mass producing goods by machines usually run by water or steam
- Featured low and unskilled workers running machines, or moving materials
- Lowered costs of goods

Factory Reform Legislation
- Between 1800 and 1850, Parliament passed a series of laws to regulate factory work.
- Many of these laws focused on protecting children working in factories, and set limits on the amount of hours that children could work in factories.
- The Factory Act of 1850, for example, limited the weekly hours that children could work to 60 and daily hours to 10.5.

Factory Reform Legislation
- Throughout this period, several commissions investigated working conditions in factories.
- Politicians, academics, doctors, and other public figures wrote books, pamphlets, speeches, and newspaper articles in support of or against regulating the country’s growing factory system.

Central Historical Question
Were textile factories bad for the health of English workers?