Industrial Revolution: Inventions
Worksheet

1. Prior to the Industrial Revolution, people made items by hand in their homes. The greater demand for textiles and other items was one reason that the Industrial Revolution began in Britain in the late 1700s. What textiles and other items did people make?

2. During the late 18th century there was a major shift in manufacturing, transportation, and communication in Europe and America.

3. Look at the two modes of transportation here. What was used to make these move?

4. People wanted to harness steam to do work. A steam engine with a horizontal beam engine was used primarily to pump water out of coal mines, but once James Watt made improvements to the steam engine it was used for many things. This enhanced steam engine is known as the rotative steam engine. The rotative steam engine burns coal that heats water to produce steam. The steam is used to power the machine.

5. People once used horses to pull trains and even some barges in canals. The steam engine changed that! What impact did the steam engine have on transportation?
6. The improvements to the steam engine also allowed it to operate machines. This changed how goods were produced. Now, factories equipped with steam engines were built to take advantage of the engine's capabilities to mass produce items. What does it mean to mass produce something? Why did the steam engine change how things were made?

7. After these factories were built, urban communities formed and took over the rural countryside. Why would communities form around factories?

8. Besides the shifts in manufacturing and transportation, there was a shift in communication. What was the typical mode of communication prior to the Industrial Revolution?

9. Samuel Morris was in South Carolina painting two former American presidents when he received a letter that his wife was sick. He left immediately and raced to his Connecticut home. Unfortunately, by the time he got there his wife had passed. He was upset that it had taken days for him to receive the message. He decided that there had to be a faster way to communicate. He sent the first telegraph from Washington, DC to Baltimore, Maryland in 1844. A telegraph was a signal sent over wires that connected 2 stations. 22 years later, a telegraph line across the Atlantic ocean connected the United States with Europe. Use the Dissect tool and examine the telegraph key. What kind of communication was sent over the telegraph? How did the telegraph change communication?
10. Once the technology required for the telegraph was available, the invention of the telephone followed shortly after in 1876. Alexander Bell was the first person to patent the telephone. Use the Dissect tool and examine the telephones. How did the invention of the telephone change communication?

11. What were some of the impacts of the Industrial Revolution?