

In the late 1800s
professional sports
teams could travel
the country to take
part in leagues.

Outbreaks of cholera
in 1831 and 1848 led
to demands for
improvements in
conditions in towns.

The development of
anaesthetics & antiseptics
(to stop infection) helped
many more people survive
surgery.

Michael Faraday's experiments helped to understand electricity. Later in the 1800s Thomas Edison developed the light bulb and other electrical equipment.

In the late 1800s
local councils opened
libraries and public
baths which were
free to use.

In the 1840s a series of terrible potato harvests in Ireland led to famine. Many thousands died and more people emigrated to Britain and America.

The long wars against
France (1793-1815)
created many jobs because
of the need for iron,
weapons, cloth for
uniforms and shipbuilding.

Railways brought fresh food into towns and led to workers living in suburbs and commuting into towns for work.

In the 1840s the government passed laws stopping women and children working long hours in many industries.

Isambard Kingdom
Brunel (the great
engineer) built railway
lines, bridges and the
first iron ships.

In the 1850s Louis Pasteur proved that bacteria cause disease. After this it was possible to develop vaccinations against common killer diseases.

During the early 1800s
poor harvests led to food
prices being very high
and widespread protests
and fear of rebellions.

Gas was used for factory lighting in 1802, then for street lighting. By the late 1800s gas was supplied to houses for lighting, heating and cooking.

By 1900 many migrants
had arrived in Britain.
Some famous businesses,
such as Marks and
Spencer, were started
by migrants.

In the late 1800s
governments passed
laws to improve housing
and force councils to
provide clean water and
improve sewers.

By 1900 refrigerated ships were bringing frozen meat and other foods from Australia and other distant countries.

The British navy was very powerful, helping build up Britain's empire and protecting trade with other countries.

In the late 1700s, men like Josiah Wedgewood (pottery) and Richard Arkwright (textiles) built the first factories. Every worker had a specialist task, making production faster and cheaper.

In the late 1700s, James Watt worked out how to improve steam engines so they could provide more power and so drive larger machines - from machines making clothes to railway engines.