

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 Wedgwood (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.