

Unit: Lowell and the Industrial Revolution

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Grade Level: Elementary

Lesson Topic: Human-Environment Interaction & Technology

State Standards:

Class Time: 45-60 minutes

Objectives:

- Students will understand/experience the effect of the Industrial Revolution/ factory work on society.
- Students will understand machines are more efficient than people.
- Students will understand the transition from cottage industry to factory industry.

Prerequisite knowledge/Background Information:

Teacher provides background to the Industrial Revolution:

- Before the Industrial Revolution people lived on farms and made the things they needed by hand. The change or revolution took place when people began to work in factories where things were made by machine. This can be illustrated on the board with the farm-hand; factor-machine graphic.

Materials:

- Play-Doh
- Play-Doh Factory Machine

Procedure:

1. Write the term "Industrial Revolution" on the board. Ask students what they think the "Industrial Revolution" was or means. Discuss.
2. Students make play dough spaghetti. Half the students make it by hand. Half make it with a play dough factory machine. Time: 3-5 minutes.
3. Discuss results. Make sure to include:
 - a. machine makes more (doing same activity over is faster)
 - b. machine results are more uniform
 - c. hand made product requires practice to become uniform
 - d. hand made product may be appreciated for higher quality/aesthetic qualities

Assessment:

- Students participated in activity
- Students are able to verbalize difference between farm and factory.