

Working Conditions

- Students can explain how the working conditions of the Industrial Revolution led to changes in business and society

Urbanization

- Shift from rural to city life
- Cities grow near energy sources
- Cities get huge!

Early English industrial town, Staffordshire.



Table 1 Population of some cities in England in the Industrial Revolution

Cities	1801	1841
Manchester	35,000	353,000
Leeds	53,000	153,000
Birmingham	23,000	183,000
Sheffield	46,000	111,000

Source: Korn (1953, p. 67)

Conditions of the Working Class

Working Conditions

- **Factory System**

 - Living Conditions

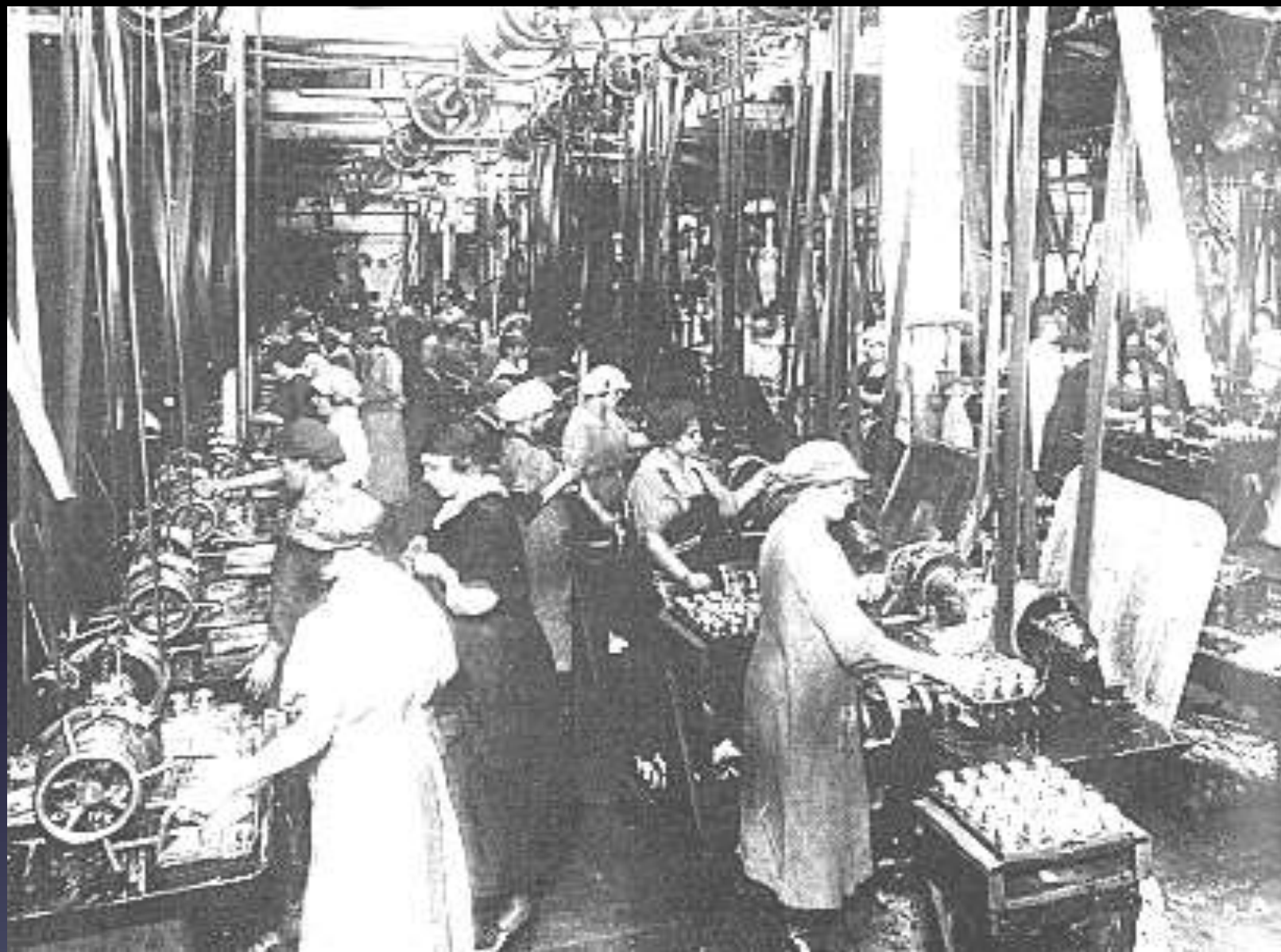
 - Overcrowded, dirty one room tenements
 - No running water
 - Lack of Sanitation
 - Lack of education
 - Lower life expectancy in the slums



Factory Life









Child Labor

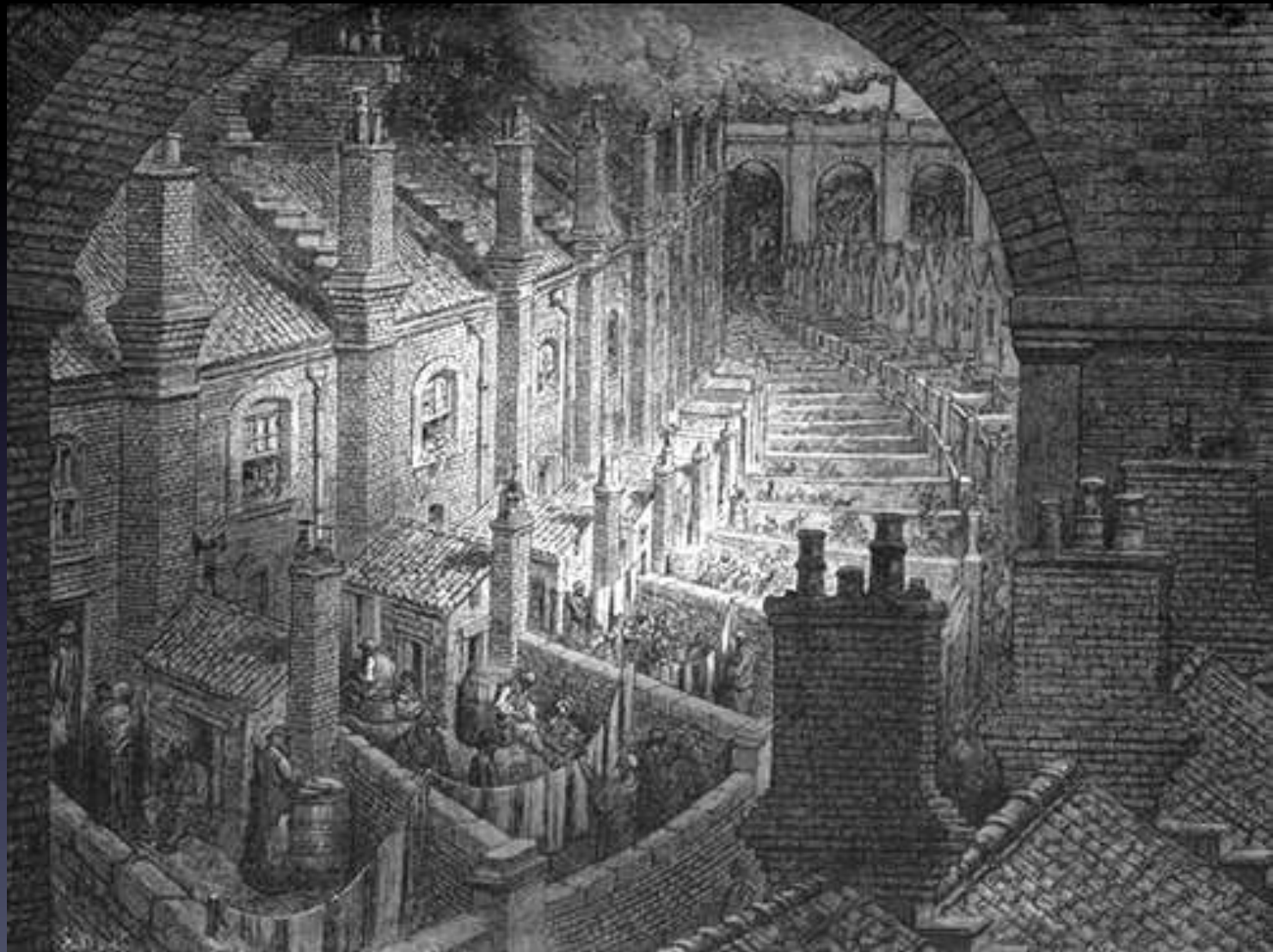
- Why do you think factories wanted to hire children?





A Children's Home in London for kids who lost limbs
working in the factories or mines

Living Conditions





Industrial Society (social classes)

- Industrial revolution brought new social classes
 - Factories brought wealth to a new, rich middles class
 - Wealthy merchants & factory Owners
 - Upper Middle Class
 - Government employees, doctors, lawyers, managers
 - Lower Middle Class
 - Factory overseers, and tool makers
- Wealth did not trickle down to the lower classes
 - Lower Class workers remained in poverty while middle class got richer
 - Resentful mobs rioted

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.