

CHAPTER  
**19**  
SECTION 2

## Section Summary

### BRITAIN LEADS THE WAY

#### READING CHECK

What machine did Eli Whitney invent?

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#### VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *decades* mean in the underlined sentence? The word *decades* comes from the Greek word *deka*, which means “ten.” Use the meaning of the word *deka* to help you learn what *decades* means.

#### READING SKILL

**Identify Causes and Effects**  
Identify causes and effects of the great revolution in transportation in England.

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The start of the Industrial Revolution in Britain can be attributed to many factors, including population growth and plentiful natural resources. The growing population and ready workforce boosted demand for goods. To increase production to meet the demand, however, another key ingredient was needed—money to start businesses. Beginning with the slave trade, the business class accumulated **capital** to invest in enterprises. An **enterprise** is a business in areas such as shipping, mining, or factories. Britain had a stable government that supported economic growth. **Entrepreneurs** managed and assumed the financial risks of starting new businesses.

The Industrial Revolution first took hold in Britain’s largest industry—textiles. British merchants developed the **putting-out system**, in which raw cotton was distributed to peasant families. They spun it into thread and then wove the thread into cloth, working in their own homes. Under the putting-out system, production was slow. As demand for cloth grew, inventors came up with new devices, such as the flying shuttle and the spinning jenny, which revolutionized the British textile industry. Meanwhile, in the United States, these faster spinning and weaving machines presented a challenge—how to produce enough cotton to keep up with Britain. Cleaning the raw cotton by hand was time-consuming. To solve this, **Eli Whitney** invented a machine called the cotton gin. This greatly increased the production of cotton. To house these machines, manufacturers built the first factories, where spinners and weavers came each day to work and produce large quantities of goods.

As production increased, entrepreneurs needed faster and cheaper methods of moving goods. Some capitalists invested in **turnpikes**. Goods could be moved faster on these toll roads, and turnpikes soon linked every part of Britain. The great revolution in transportation, however, occurred with the invention of the steam locomotive, which made possible the growth of railroads. The world’s first major rail line began operating between the British industrial cities of **Liverpool** and **Manchester** in 1830. In the following decades, railroad travel became faster and railroad building boomed. The Industrial Revolution dramatically affected the way people lived.

### Review Questions

1. What factors contributed to the start of the Industrial Revolution?

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2. What changes revolutionized the textile industry?

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