

The Industrial Revolution was one of the most important time periods in European history. Although the exact dates are debated, it is widely believed that it began in the mid 1700's, or about 1760^o, and ended in the early 20th century. The industrial revolution was an age of inventions and mechanical advancements. Throughout the 200 year time period, the Industrial Revolution spread throughout Europe and to North America as well, but it began in England. The reason the Industrial Revolution began in England was due to its natural resources and geography and involvement in the scientific and agricultural revolutions.

One reason the Industrial Revolution began in England was the geography and resources of that country. In the map of England's exports and excerpt of ⁴George Wainwright's "Landmarks in English Industrial History", it shows that England had many natural resources such as coal, iron, sheep for wool, and farm land for cotton. It also had access to many different canals and a sea. The access to these bodies of water made it easier to transport goods as well as providing a reason to invent a more efficient mode of transport. Without this vital transportation, England would not have been able to trade with other countries and spread industrialization. The easy access to the many natural resources of England also made sure that the country was financially stable, allowing for its people to focus on industrialization. These resources also prompted people to develop more efficient methods of harvesting them. Therefore, one important cause of industrialization beginning in England was its geography and resources.

The Industrial Revolution began in England, partially due to the Scientific Revolution. In the excerpt from Thomas Ashton's "The Industrial Revolution," England's involvement in the scientific revolution is explained. During the Scientific Revolution, there were many famous scientists all throughout Europe who were rapidly making new scientific discoveries. Many of these scientists lived in, or were from, England. This scientific edge allowed England to industrialize faster than any other country and be the first to become fully industrialized. During the Industrial Revolution, many inventors and scientists were connecting the work of other scientists, and using it to solve prominent issues. Due to the fact that England had so many scientists, they were able to begin the Industrial Revolution. If the people of England had not been so involved in the scientific ~~Revolution~~, they would not have the new ideas and concepts needed to industrialize.

The final reason that England began the Industrial Revolution was the agricultural revolution. In the "Changes in Agriculture" table and excerpt from Arthur Young's "A Farmer's Tour Through the East of England" England's heavy influence on the agricultural revolution is described. The scientific revolution and abundance of natural resources prompted people to invent more efficient methods of farming. Many ideas and inventions such as the horse-drawn seed drill, stock breeding and the mechanical reaper all originated in England. The enclosing of farms without the influence of Parliament also had a large impact. Before farms were enclosed, more than 80% of people in England were farmers, almost every family owned a small plot of land on which they farmed. However, after farms were enclosed, small groups of people owned

enormous plots of land, made up of the many small ones that had previously existed. Both the enclosure and multitude of inventions meant that less people spent less time on agriculture and could practice other crafts. Many families that previously owned land moved to the city to get factory jobs. The inventions meant that, even though not many people were left farming large amounts of land, it still got done because the new inventions made farming faster and easier. If England had not been able to do either of those things, it would have stayed a country whose main craft was agriculture, and would not have been able to industrialize.