Industrial Revolution

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Industrial Revolution saw many changes to America. Before the Industrial Revolution people usually worked in the bottom floor of their homes and produced items in small quantities for the public to purchase and consume. In the early 1800s, manufacturing of textiles in the northeast of the United States moved to factories. These factories had a large impact on the way America worked and lived. This was the beginning of industrial America and we never looked back.

During part of Thomas Jefferson and Jackson's presidency, what we now call the American Industrial Revolution took place. It was a time filled with bursts of technology and immigration. At times, this era seemed to hurt the young country. There were many aspects of the industrial revolution that played major roles in determining the success and some failures of this era and of times to come. One might remember this revolution to be famous for inventions, factories, working conditions, women, children and slavery, social changes, and economic changes to America.

For much of the people that lived during that era, it was very common for one to work in the factory or on a farm/plantation. The conditions in the factories at this time were dark, dirty, and most of all dangerously unsafe. During that time, many factory workers lived in a house or an apartment and workers lived together in crowded conditions. The revolution also used child labor and women in the factories and paid them less than men. Many factory workers received low pay, but this also benefited many people since they were able build up their wealth quickly, which would not have been possible before the Industrial Revolution. People who lived on farms, and especially plantations also lived in poor conditions and worked very long hours. Slaves had no pay and could not leave, they were considered property of their owners.

Mass production of goods in factories were at the heart of the revolution in the north, while farms and plantations in the south produced the raw materials to feed the northern manufacturers. Machines did most of the work that our forefathers used to do by themselves, which enabled greater production, but with this increase came a need for an increase in labor. In the North immigrants, women and children filled the factories, and in the south slavery reduced costs on the plantations. With these new inventions, communication improved greatly between people. This gradually increased our trade with other countries, and therefore, our economy boomed with new riches. With the development of factories cities grew larger and larger as the demand for more workers increased. This was a pure Hamiltonian effect of manufacturing over the Jeffersonian agricultural view of America, but Jefferson would have his views played out in the mass produced cotton fields of the south, and the breadbasket of the Midwest with America producing many farm products such as corn, wheat, and cotton.

In many ways there are two Americas, Jefferson's and Hamilton's. Those two visions would lead brother against brother and challenge and change the fabric of America and our very way of life.

1. **Describe at least two advantages or benefits from the Industrial Revolution.**

2. **Describe at least two disadvantages or problems from the Industrial Revolution.**

3. **Compare working conditions today to those of farmers and factory workers of the 1800s.**