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Industrial Revolution Vocabulary Chart

Term	Definition & Significance / Example
Industrial Revolution	Transition from hand production to machine manufacturing, starting in Britain (late 1700s). Shifted economies, societies, and global trade patterns.
Factory System	Centralized production using machines and division of labor. Increased efficiency but often poor working conditions.
Cottage Industry (Putting-Out System)	Pre-industrial home-based production. Replaced by factories, but remained in some rural economies.
Enclosure Movement	Consolidation of farmland in Britain, pushing small farmers into urban wage labor. Sparked rural depopulation.
Capitalism	Economic system based on private ownership, profit motive, and market competition. Dominant system during Industrial Revolution.
Laissez-Faire	Minimal government interference in economy; advocated by Adam Smith in <i>Wealth of Nations</i> .
Urbanization	Growth of cities due to migration for industrial jobs. Led to overcrowding, pollution, and public health challenges.
Spinning Jenny	Multi-spindle spinning machine invented by James Hargreaves (1764). Boosted textile production.
Water Frame	Richard Arkwright's water-powered spinning machine. Allowed factory-scale textile manufacturing.
Steam Engine	Perfected by James Watt; powered machinery, locomotives, and ships, enabling industrial expansion.
Iron Industry	Mass production of iron for railways, machines, and construction. Key to infrastructure growth.
Bessemer Process	Henry Bessemer's method for inexpensive steel production (1850s). Enabled skyscrapers, bridges, and railways.

Electricity	Widely used in late 19th century for lighting, machines, and communication (telegraph, telephone).
Internal Combustion Engine	Powered automobiles and airplanes; revolutionized transportation and warfare.
Mass Production	Large-scale manufacturing of standardized goods, aided by assembly lines (e.g., Ford's Model T).
Proletariat	Industrial working class, often in harsh conditions. Central to Marxist theory of class struggle.
Bourgeoisie	Middle-class capitalists and industrialists; benefited most economically from industrialization.
Labor Unions	Worker organizations advocating for higher wages, shorter hours, and safer conditions.
Luddites	Skilled workers who destroyed machinery they believed threatened their jobs (1811–1816).
Chartist Movement	British working-class political reform movement for universal male suffrage and secret ballots.
Karl Marx	Philosopher advocating class struggle and abolition of capitalism; co-wrote <i>The Communist Manifesto</i> (1848).
Friedrich Engels	Marx's collaborator; documented harsh industrial conditions in <i>The Condition of the Working Class in England</i> .
Socialism	Ideology advocating for collective ownership of production; arose partly in response to industrial inequality.
Utopian Socialism	Early socialist vision of cooperative, ideal communities (e.g., Robert Owen's New Lanark).
Romanticism	Cultural movement reacting to industrialization, valuing nature, emotion, and individualism.