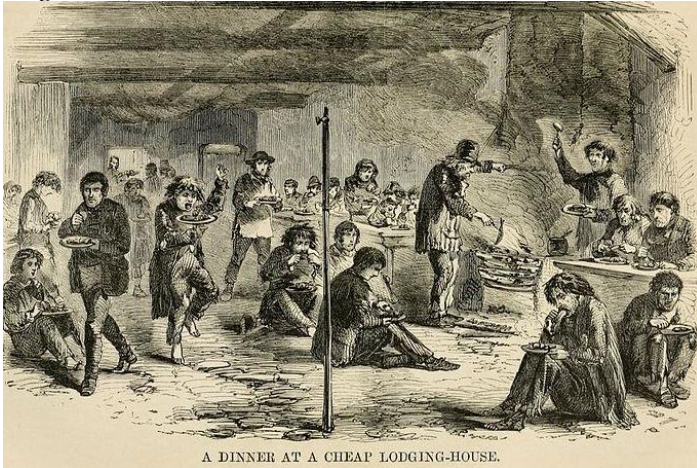


6.13 Textile Industry Parliamentary Investigation Webquest

Do Now: The image is from Henry Mayhew's 1861 study of London's poor. The information on life expectancy in England was reported by Frederick Engels in his book *Condition of the Working Class in England* (1844).



“In 1840 in Liverpool the average age at death of the ‘gentry and professional persons’ was 35 years, of ‘tradesmen and their families’ 22 years and ‘labourers, mechanics and servants’ was actually only 15 years. The main reason for the high death rate is the heavy mortality among infants and small children. If both parents go to work for their living, or if either parent is dead, the child is so neglected that its health inevitably suffers. In Manchester nearly 54 per cent of the workers’ children die before attaining their fifth birthday. Only 20 per cent of the children of the middle class die before they are five. In the rural districts rather less than 32 per cent of all children die before they are five.”

Questions

1. What was the average age at death of the “labourers, mechanics and servants” in Liverpool, England in 1840?
2. According to Engels, why is the average age at death so low for this group of people?

3. In your opinion, does the image support Engel’s claims?

Instructions: You are members of the Sadler Committee, a British Parliamentary Commission investigating conditions for workers in the British textile industry in 1832. A mass of information including interviews with factory owners and workers has been assembled and is stored “online” at <https://spartacus-educational.com/IndustrialRevolution.htm> . Excerpts from the Sadler Committee report are available at <https://history.hanover.edu/courses/excerpts/111sad.html> (both accessed December 13, m2018).

Task: Your team’s task is to evaluate the information and make recommendations to Parliament about possible legal reforms. In your report you must explain how conditions changed for textile workers once the factory system was introduced, what conditions are like in the textile factories, and the views of factory owners, workers, and reformers on general conditions in the factories and factory towns and on the debate over whether children under the age of twelve should be allowed to work in the factories. Each member of your team should focus on a different topic or area for the report and individual work should be identified.

Product: Your team’s combined written report should be at least 2,000-words in length. In addition, your team must prepare and present a PowerPoint with a minimum of twenty slides for presentation to Parliament.

Evaluation: Team members will receive both a group and an individual grade. The team’s report and presentation and individual work will be evaluated for depth of coverage (40%), historical accuracy (20%), clarity of written and oral presentations (20%), and ability to capture the interest of your audience (20%).