

Activity 6. Textile Industry Parliamentary Investigation Webquest

Instructions: You are members of a Parliamentary Commission in England investigating conditions for workers in the British textile industry in the first half of the 19th century. A mass of information including interviews with factory owners and workers has been assembled and is stored “online” at

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/IndustrialRevolution.htm> (accessed June 13, 2010).

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%).