

## Year 8 Homework 5- Reading on health and illness in Industrial Towns

Disease thrived in Industrial Revolution towns where in 1840, 1 in 5 children died before the age of one, and the average life expectancy for a working man was just 17 years old. Although people had been attracted to towns and cities to earn a wage, the reality was the living conditions were awful. Disease and illness was normal for all as it spread quickly. One of the biggest reasons why people got ill before 1861 is that no one knew germs existed. Illness and disease was not just restricted to the poor, as Prince Albert, the husband of Queen Victoria, caught typhoid and died in 1861

Some of the illnesses people could get included:

**Smallpox**- where a rash turns into blisters all over the body, causing scarring or death. 60% of adults died and 80% of children. Smallpox was spread through touch or coughing.

**Typhoid**- the symptoms included headaches, fever, constipation and then diarrhoea. 40% of people who had typhoid died. The disease was spread via germs in contaminated water.

**Tuberculosis (TB)**- People who had TB would cough up blood, lose weight and have breathing problems as the illness attacked the lungs.

As towns grew, for example Manchester grew from 45,000 people in 1745 to over 300,000 people in 1851, the government did try to stop the spread of disease. Special groups- called Boards of Health- were set up, but they were not very good as they didn't know what was causing the disease so had no way to stop illness.

## Homework Task:

You need to highlight or underline the reading based on the following questions:

- 1: How many children died before the age of one during the Industrial Revolution?
- 2: What was the average life expectancy for a working man during the Industrial Revolution?
- 3: What was the greatest reason for people not being able to stop the spread of disease?
- 4: How did the government try and stop the spread of disease?

**Challenge Yourself: List factors involved in leading to poor health and explain how they led to poor health or How did expansion bring problems to Britain?**