

# Imagine:

Everything you've ever known and how you lived your life was changing almost daily.

What if machines could do your job better and quicker than you and actually it is quite likely you might not have a job soon.



# The Luddites

***Aim:*** To understand what the Luddites were prepared to fight for and what happened



# Linking back

What other uprisings have we looked at already in Key Stage 3 History?

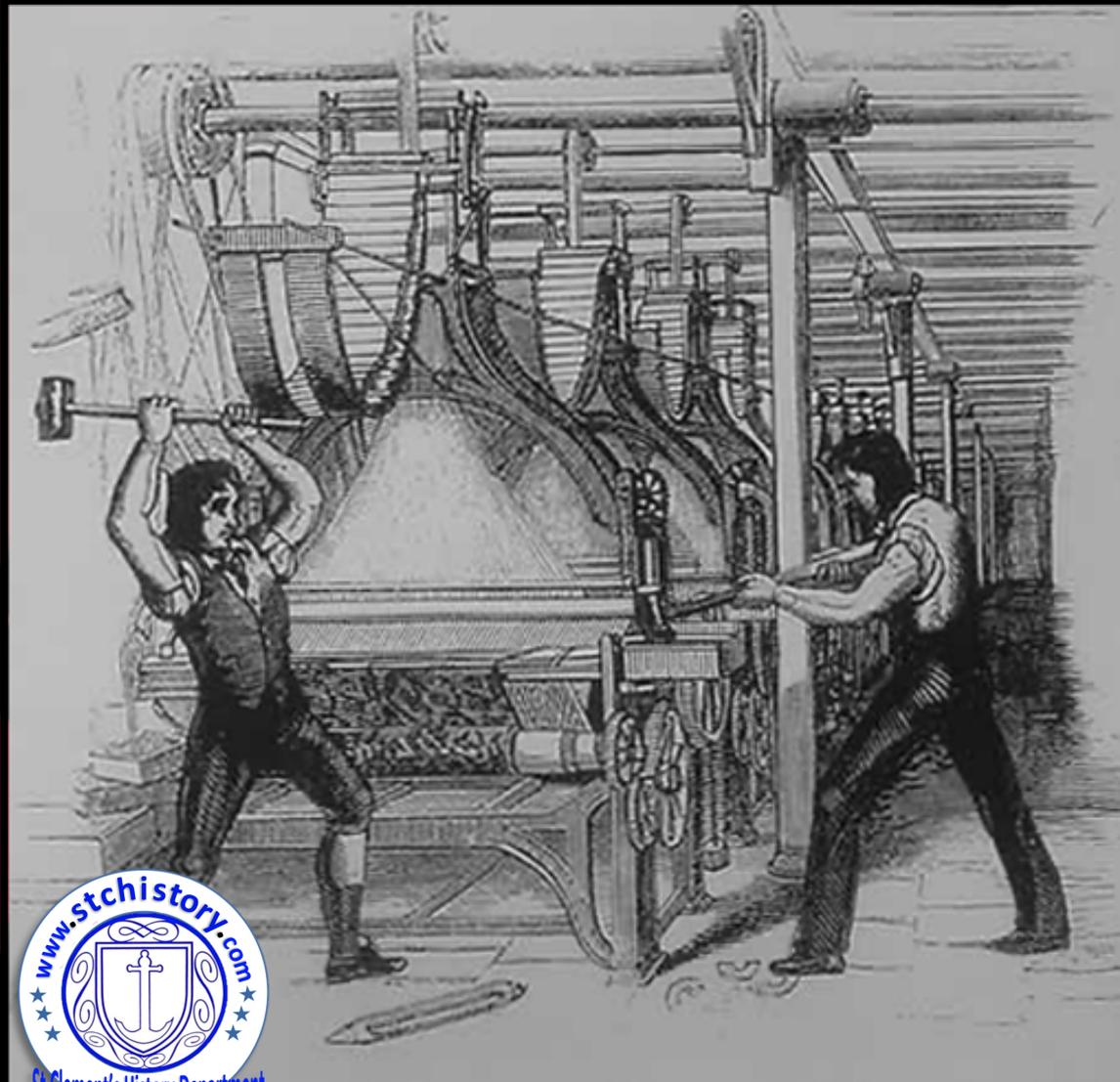
- What were the causes of the Peasants Revolt?
- What did the peasants do during the peasants revolt?
- How were the leaders of the peasants revolt treated?

# What impact did the factories have on the domestic system?

- Who stood to gain the most?
- Who stood to gain the least?



# What's happening in this picture?



What are the men doing?

Why do you think they are doing this?



# The Luddites 1800-1850

## **Lynching Luddites**

New machines put men out of work in the north of England. The working men ganged together to...

- smash the machines
- attack the bosses after dark
- capture new machines that were being carried to the factories
- fight battles against the army sent in to guard the bosses and the factories
- send threats to bosses saying, 'Get rid of the machines or we'll get rid of you.'

The men called themselves 'Luddites' – when they sent a threat they signed it General Ned Ludd.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgBiGrpWNQU>

# What were the Luddites unhappy with?

Reason	Details
Unemployment & Poverty	
Unfair Punishments	
Lack of Freedom	

## Luddites: **Unemployment and poverty.**

While the Industrial Revolution made some people very rich and made Britain a very powerful country it did not mean that **everyone** in the country was having a good time. In fact most British people were struggling and suffered poor conditions during this time period.

Factories were making textiles quicker and cheaper than the old domestic system could. So weavers and hand loom workers were no longer needed. They lost their jobs and struggled to support their families.

Farmers were struggling too as farm bosses introduced new machines that could do the work faster and use fewer men to do it.



## Luddites: **Unfair Punishments**

To add to the miseries of the working people of Britain the law at this time was very harsh. Factory owners could have their workers beaten or fined heavily if they were late to work or slow in their job.

If people fell into debt they would be thrown into prison until they paid the money they borrowed back. But being stuck in prison made it very difficult to earn money to pay back the loan – so many people just spent the rest of their lives in prison!

All these laws made working people feel like they were being treated unfairly by the government and factory bosses.



## Luddites: **No Freedom**

Only about 5% of the population qualified for the vote (you had to have lots of money or land to be allowed to vote in elections). This meant the working people felt they had no control over their lives and no way to make their opinions heard by the government.



*We, the working people of Britain, demand better conditions – or else we will destroy the factories, machines and people doing us harm!*

*We are unhappy for the following reasons...*

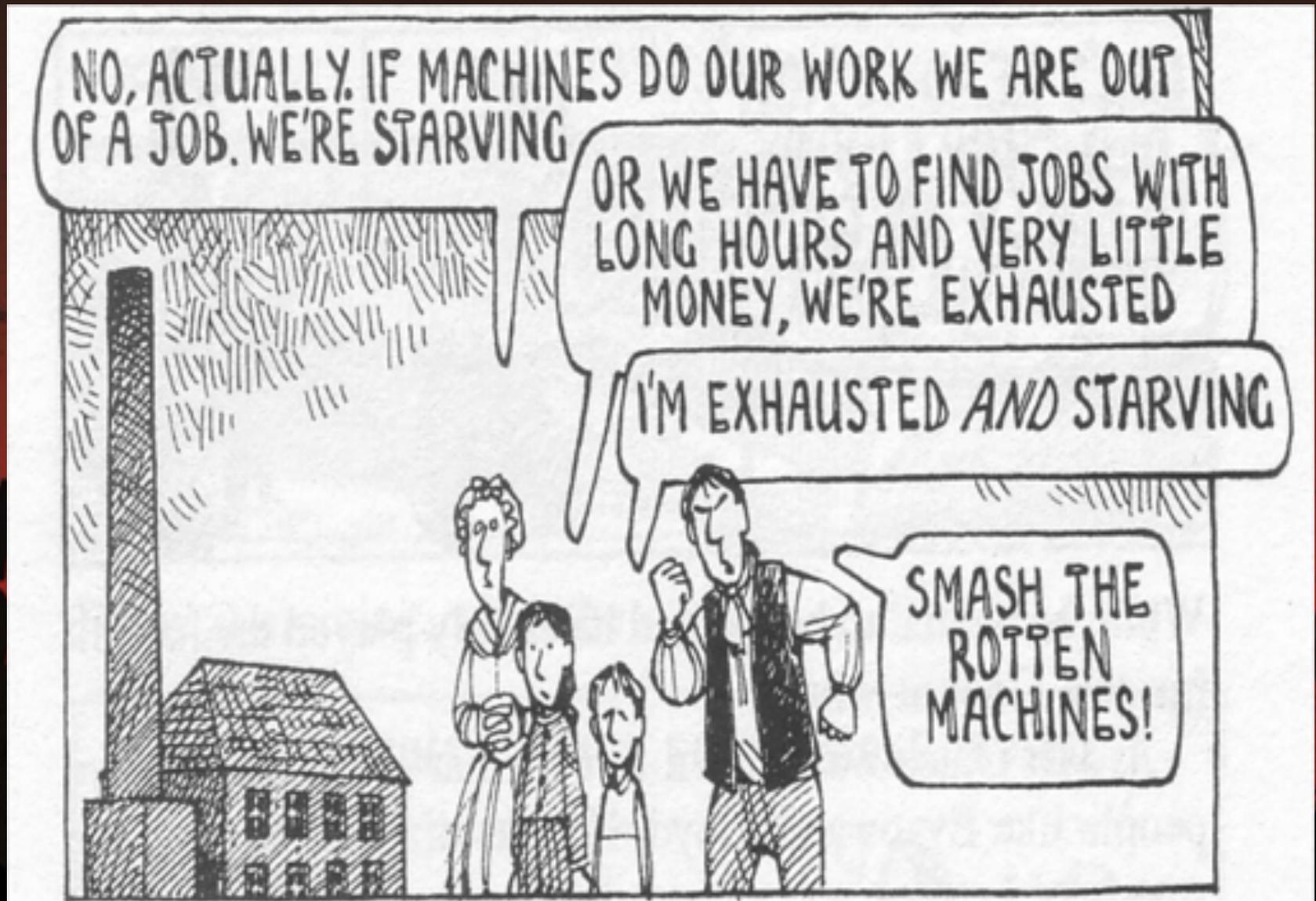
*Firstly...*

*Secondly..*

*Thirdly...*



# So what happened?





Luddites could be executed or transported as convicts.

The government sent nearly 12,000 troops into Luddite areas to help defend factories and keep order



## Conclude....

In your opinion do you think the Luddites were right to attack the factories and machines that were putting them out of work but also powering the Industrial Revolution?



Overall I think the Luddites were...

I think this because...

I understand the other point of view that...

Yet overall I think ... because...