



The Agricultural revolution

Keyword /Key terms

Enclosure

Selective breeding

Mechanised

**Use your knowledge
organiser to find the
definition for these
words**



Recap: What do we mean by the word revolution?

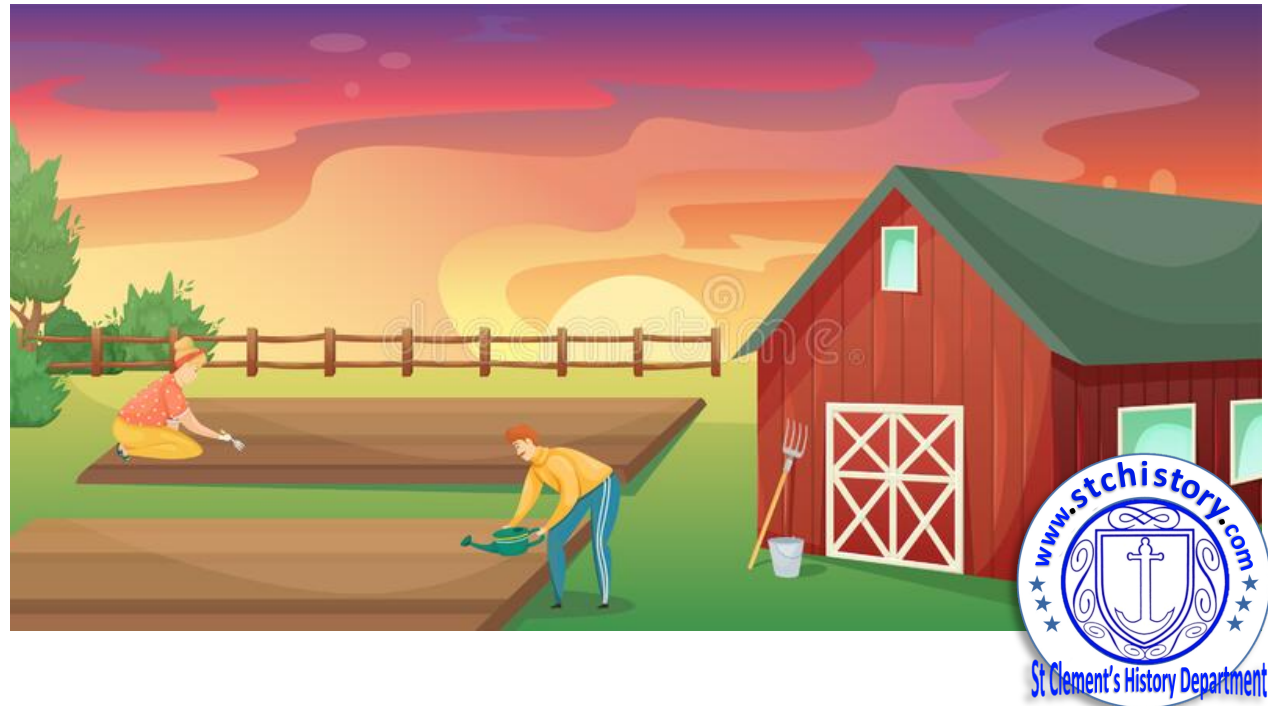
For the Industrial Revolution to happen, changes first had to be made in farming!

Why do you think they had to make improvements in farming before they could industrialise? Think about the growing population in the cities...

Subsistence Farming:

The practice of growing crops and raising livestock sufficient yourself and your family, without any extra for trade.

- Subsistence farming would need to be replaced so that the countryside can feed the cities.
- Farming would also need to change to free up the workers to go and work in the new factories in the towns and cities.



By 1700, the farms in England were still run by the old **strip system**. As we know, during the 1700s the population began to increase meaning things needed to change so that the increasing population could be fed.

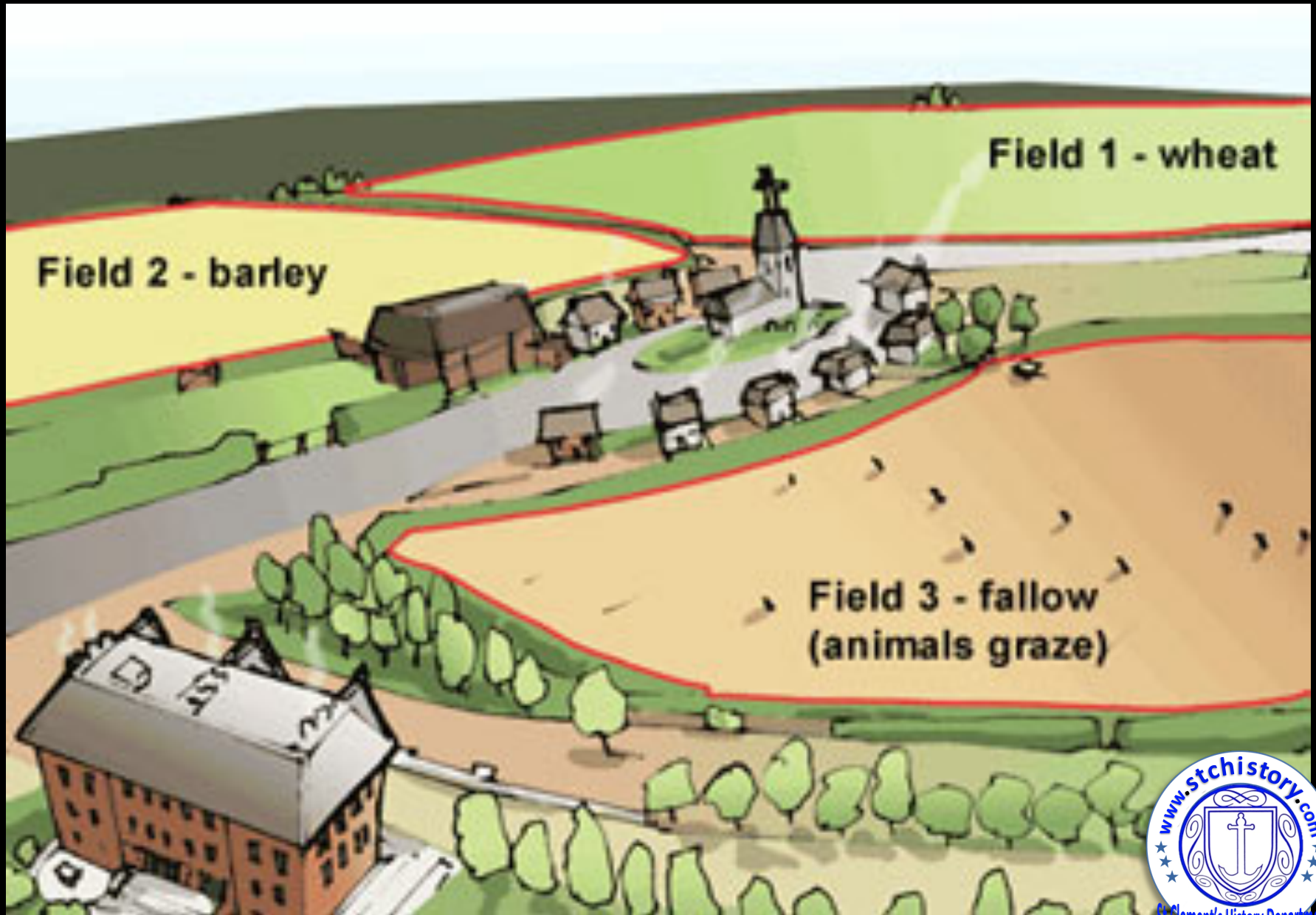
This meant that new farming ideas and new technology needed to be created. This is what we call the **agricultural revolution**.

RECAP: What was the population growth during the Industrial Period 1750-1900?



7 million to 37 million

The Open Field System: Can you see any problems with this system?



What was wrong with the 'open field' system of farming?

Stick your field in the centre of a new page

The strips belonging to a farmer were spread out and it took time to move about.

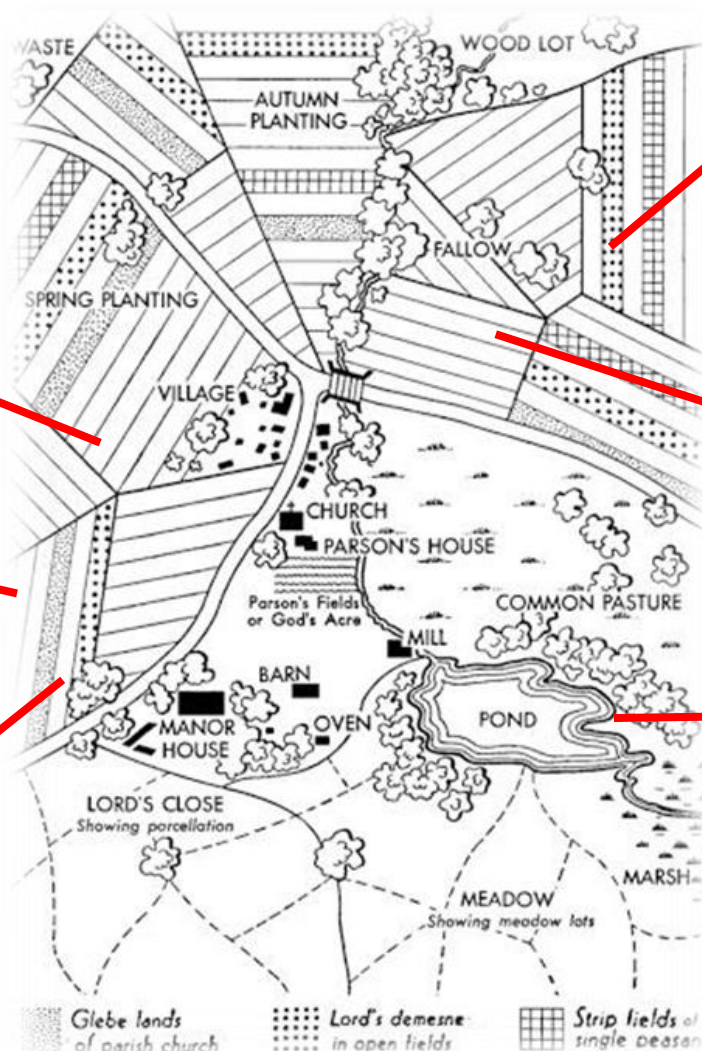
Weeds spread easily from strip to strip

The strips meant that machines could not be used as they were too narrow.

Open fields meant it was difficult to control the movement of animals.

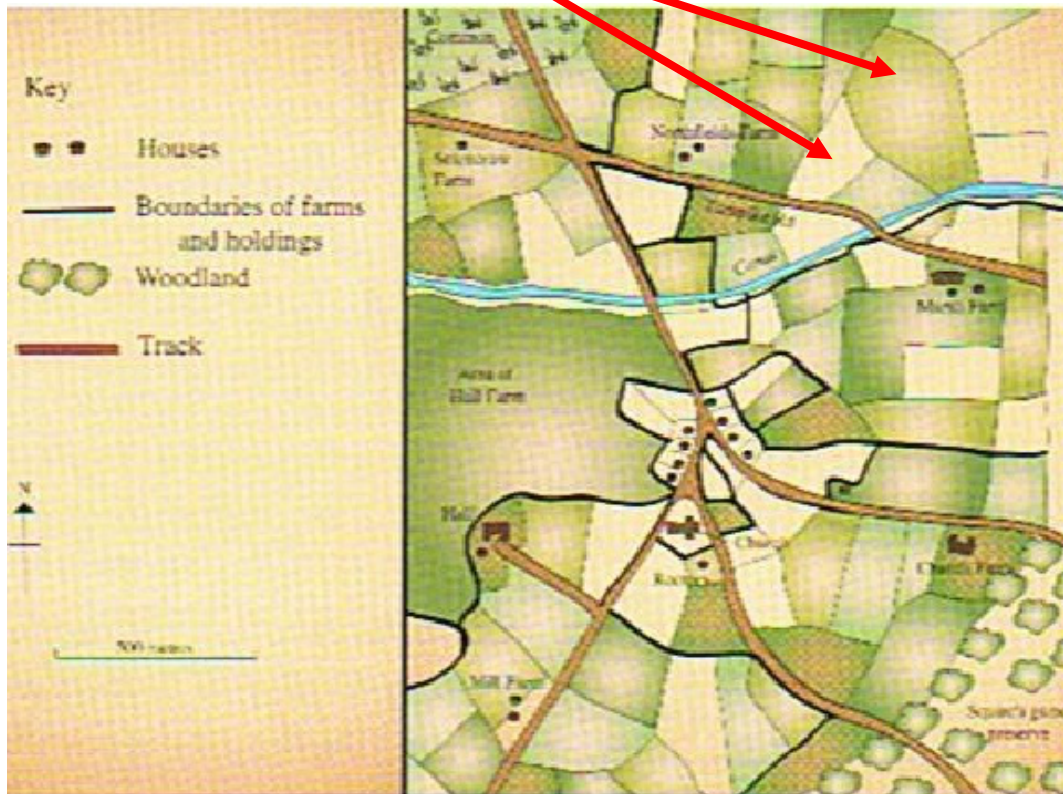
Every year one field was left **fallow** – nothing was grown in it which was a waste of land.

The common land was another area that could have been used for farming.



Annotate around your field with the problems of the 'open field' system

Enclosure



- The open fields were divided up so every person who could prove that they owned some land would get a share.
- The open land was also divided up into small fields and hedges and fences were put around them. Everyone could have their own fields and could use them how they wanted.
- Common land would also be enclosed and divided up.

Effect of enclosure on one village

	BEFORE ENCLOSURE	AFTER ENCLOSURE
AREA UNDER CULTIVATION	2800 KM SQUARED	4680 KM SQUARED
TOTAL CROPS GROWN	9360 KG	30,680 KG
SHEEP BRED EVERY YEAR	200	1800

Task

Using the table explain the positive effects of enclosure of land.

Task

Read your information page and highlight each box if you think it supports Enclosures or does not...

THE ENCLOSURE OF LAND
COLOUR CODE THE STATEMENTS INTO THOSE THAT SUPPORT ENCLOSURE AND THOSE THAT DO NOT.

We all have a fair share of good and bad land.	We will be able to breed healthier animals because our animals will no longer mix with diseased ones on the common. This will lead to more milk and meat being produced.
We waste too much time travelling between our strips. Compact farms will save time.	We will be deprived of our right to cut timber from the woodland and graze our animals on the common land.
The strips are too small to make it worthwhile using new tools such as the seed drill.	We will have more land because the common land, meadows, woodland and wasteland will be shared out.
We are self-sufficient, which means we grow our own food and rear our own livestock.	There will be more people in the village who do not own land. This will lead to more poverty because not everyone will be able to find jobs.
Weeds from strips belonging to lazy farmers have spread to our land.	Too much land is left uncultivated each year. This is not very efficient.
We will be able to try new methods to increase the amount of food we produce without getting everybody's agreement.	Our way of life will change. Some people will lose their jobs.
Enclosure is expensive. Not everybody will be able to afford to pay for new fences, <i>fences, hedges and roads.</i>	We could improve our land by draining it. More land could then be farmed.

- The four crop rotation was designed so that at no point would any field be left fallow (unused).
- This meant that as the crops were rotated the nutrients taken out by one crop would be replaced by another.



The Four Crop Rotation system



**'Turnip' Townshend from Norfolk came up with the idea of the
Norfolk 4 course Crop Rotation**

The Norfolk 4 course crop rotation



Year 1



Year 2



Year 3



Year 4

Task

How does the Norfolk four
crop rotation work?

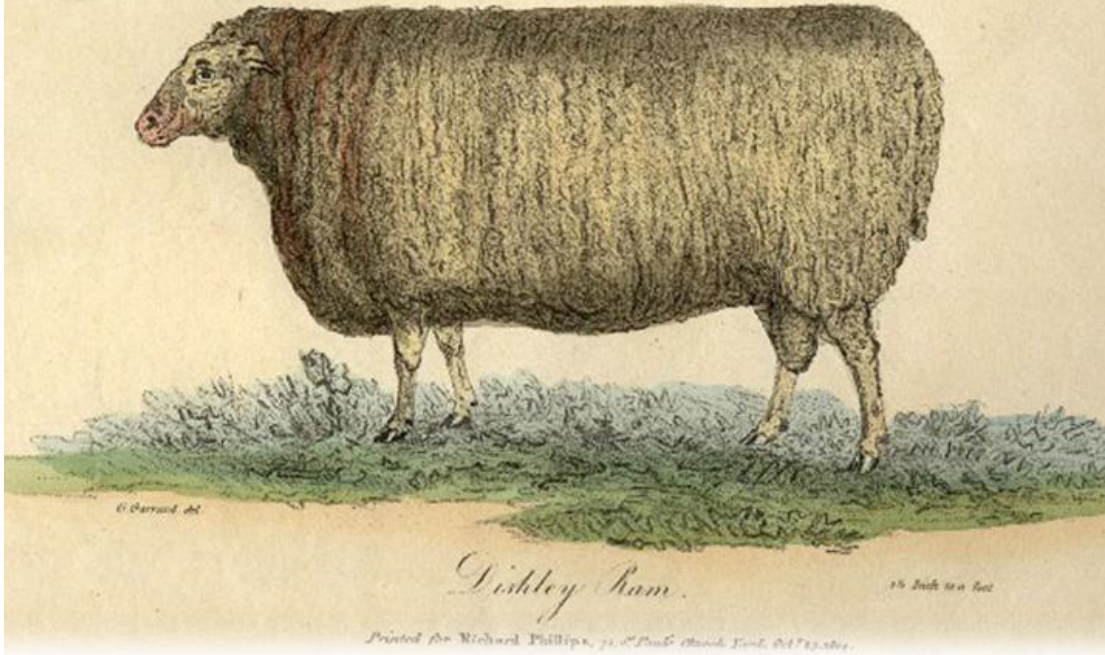
What is the advantage of
the four-crop rotation?



New farming machinery – Jethro Tull's Seed Drill

This extremely useful tool was used to plant seeds in a straight line and cover them with soil. This method of sowing seeds resulted in more land being farmed and resulted in improved crop organisation.

Why did the seed drill make things quicker and better to plant?



Selective breeding

Selective breeding is only allowing the fittest and strongest cattle, sheep, pigs or horses to mate to improve the overall quality of the breed.

1710 – average weight of cattle = 168kg

1795 – average weight of cattle = 363kg

What is meant by selective breeding?

What effect has selective breeding have?



Watch the
following clip:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QKIts2_yJ0





Advantages & disadvantages of the Agricultural Revolution

ADVANTAGES

- More food is produced
- Prices become cheaper
- Better quality animals produced through selective breeding
- Land is all in one place
- All land is used – no fallow
- Jethrow Tull's seed drill gave 5x the crops
- 'Turnip' Townshend's 4 course Crop rotation gave better quality crops

DISADVANTAGES

- Poor people could not afford to enclose and were often made unemployed
- People lost the right to use the common land leading to hunger and poverty
- People who had lost their livelihoods had to move to the towns and cities and work in the factories or risk starving to death

When do you think the Agricultural Revolution REALLY took place using tractors?



After World War Two – 1945 onwards

