

Name _____



From Mills to Modern

Directions: Read the passage carefully and think about how the issue in the passage was understood in its own time. Compare that perspective with how the same issue would be viewed today. Answer the

questions using complete sentences, supporting your ideas with details from the text and modern understanding.

The Industrial Shift

In the mid-1800s, factories in growing cities buzzed with the sound of new machines. Workers, many of them children, toiled for twelve or more hours a day with little pay. Safety measures were nearly nonexistent, and injuries were common. Despite harsh conditions, these jobs were considered valuable because they offered steady wages at a time when farming life was unpredictable. Business owners often argued that long hours built discipline and kept workers occupied. Newspapers of the time praised industrial progress, focusing on inventions and economic growth rather than the struggles of laborers. For many families, factory work symbolized opportunity, even if it came with hardship.

1. How was factory work viewed in the **1800s** according to the passage?
2. How would most people in **today's society** view the same working conditions?
3. Why might newspapers in the 1800s focus more on economic progress than on worker struggles?
4. What modern laws or protections exist today that would change the situation described in the passage?
5. How does comparing "then" to "now" help you better understand the significance of industrialization?