

## Factory Life: Read like a Historian Activity

### Document A - Dr. Ward

- (1) Why is Dr. Ward being interviewed by the House of Lords Committee?
- (2) What does he mean when he refers to factories as “nurseries of disease and vice”?
- (3) What evidence does Dr. Ward use to back his claim that factories were unhealthy and unsafe for children?

### Document B - Dr. Holme

- (1) How is the source information for this document similar to and different from Document A (Dr. Ward)?  
Similar:  
  
Different:
- (2) What evidence does Dr. Holme use to back his claim about the health of children in factories? Do you think this is convincing evidence?
- (3) Why might it matter that Mr. Pooley asked Dr. Holme to examine the children at his factory?
- (4) Which document, A or B, do you think is more trustworthy? WHY?

### Document C - John Birley

- (1) What type of document is this? When was it written?
- (2) How old was John Birley when this account was published?



(3) Which document, A or B, does this account more closely match? HOW?

(4) Why did John Birley not tell the truth about life working in the mill to the inspectors?

### Document D – Edward Baines

(1) Who wrote this article? \_\_\_\_\_ When? \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Why did Baines write this article?

(3) What does he mean in the second paragraph, when Baines states, “But abuse is the exception not the rule”?

(4) What is Baines’ main point in the final paragraph?

(5) Which document, A or B, does this account more closely match? HOW?

(6) Who do you think is a more trustworthy source, Birley or Baines? WHY?

### Conclusion – Making a Claim about Factory Life during the Industrial Revolution

**Do you think that English textile factories were bad for the health of working class families?**

In the space below, write a **TWO – SENTENCE** response to the question above using evidence from at least one document to support your claim.

(One sentence should explain your belief. Second sentence should use evidence from one of the documents to support your belief.)