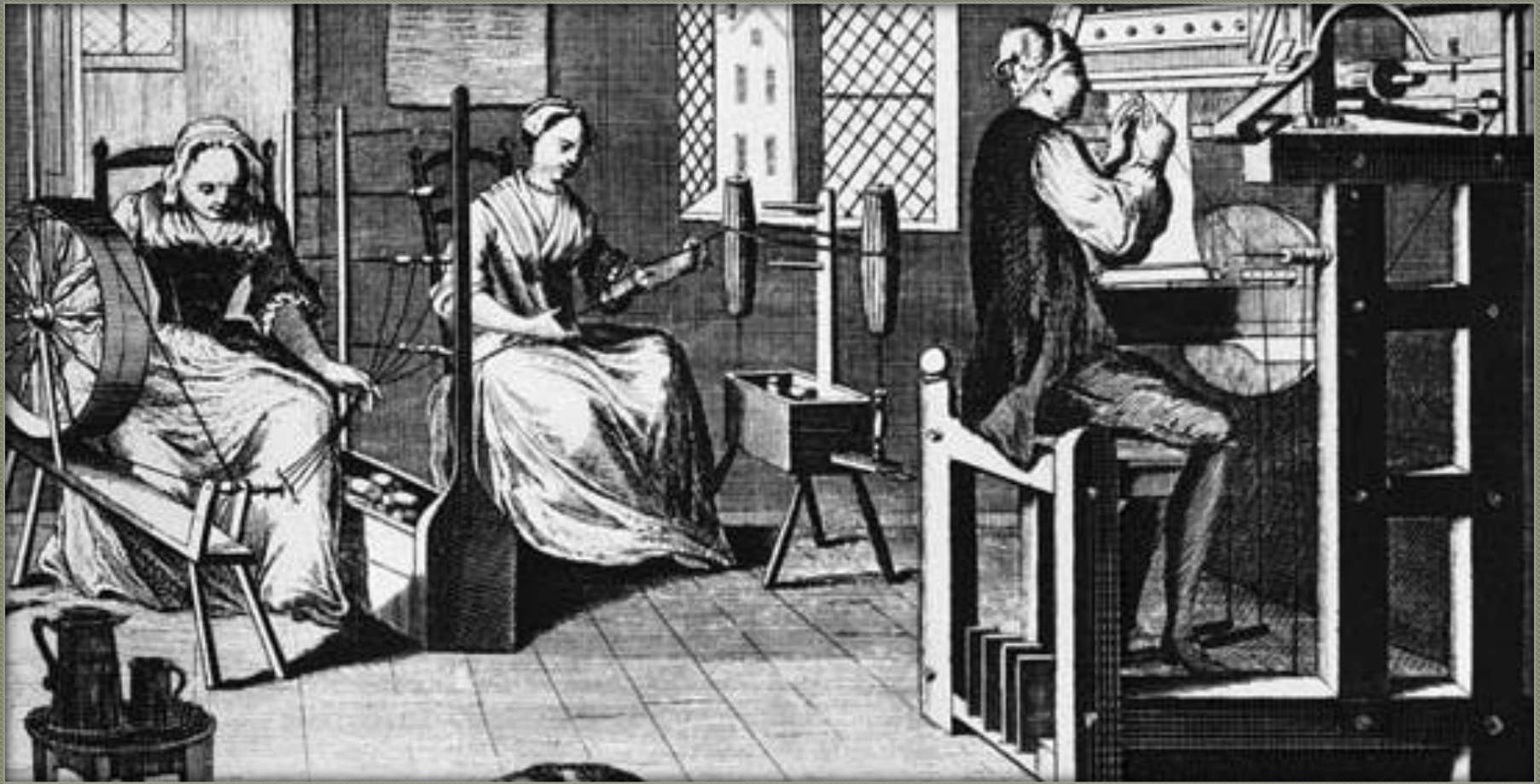


The Industrial Revolution

How Britain was changed.



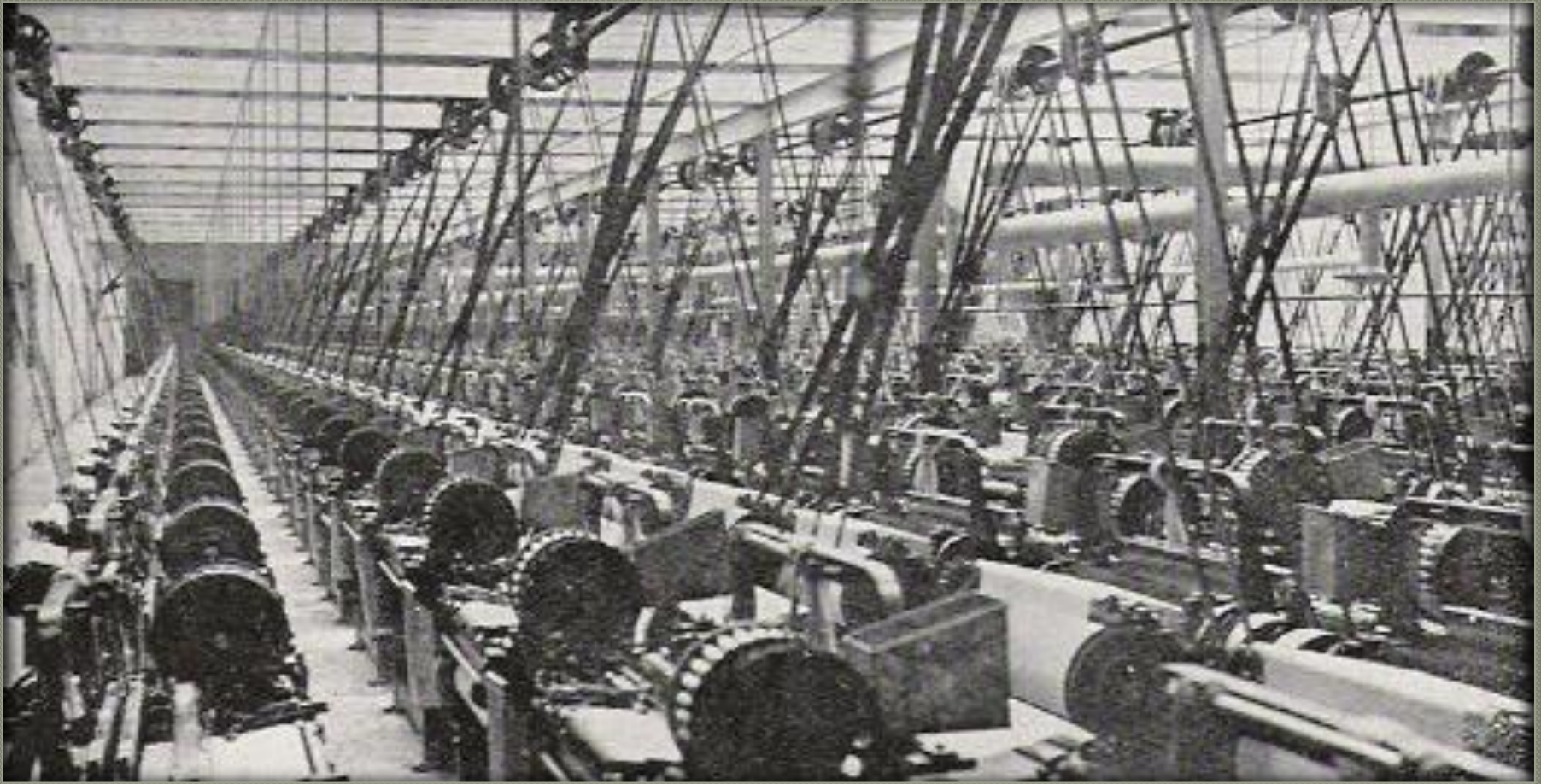
Spinning and weaving at home- Cottage Industry

In 1837, Britain was still a rural nation with 80% of the population living in the countryside. Most people were farmers or spun wool and cotton to weave into cloth. Soon new machines were invented that could do these jobs in a fraction of the time.



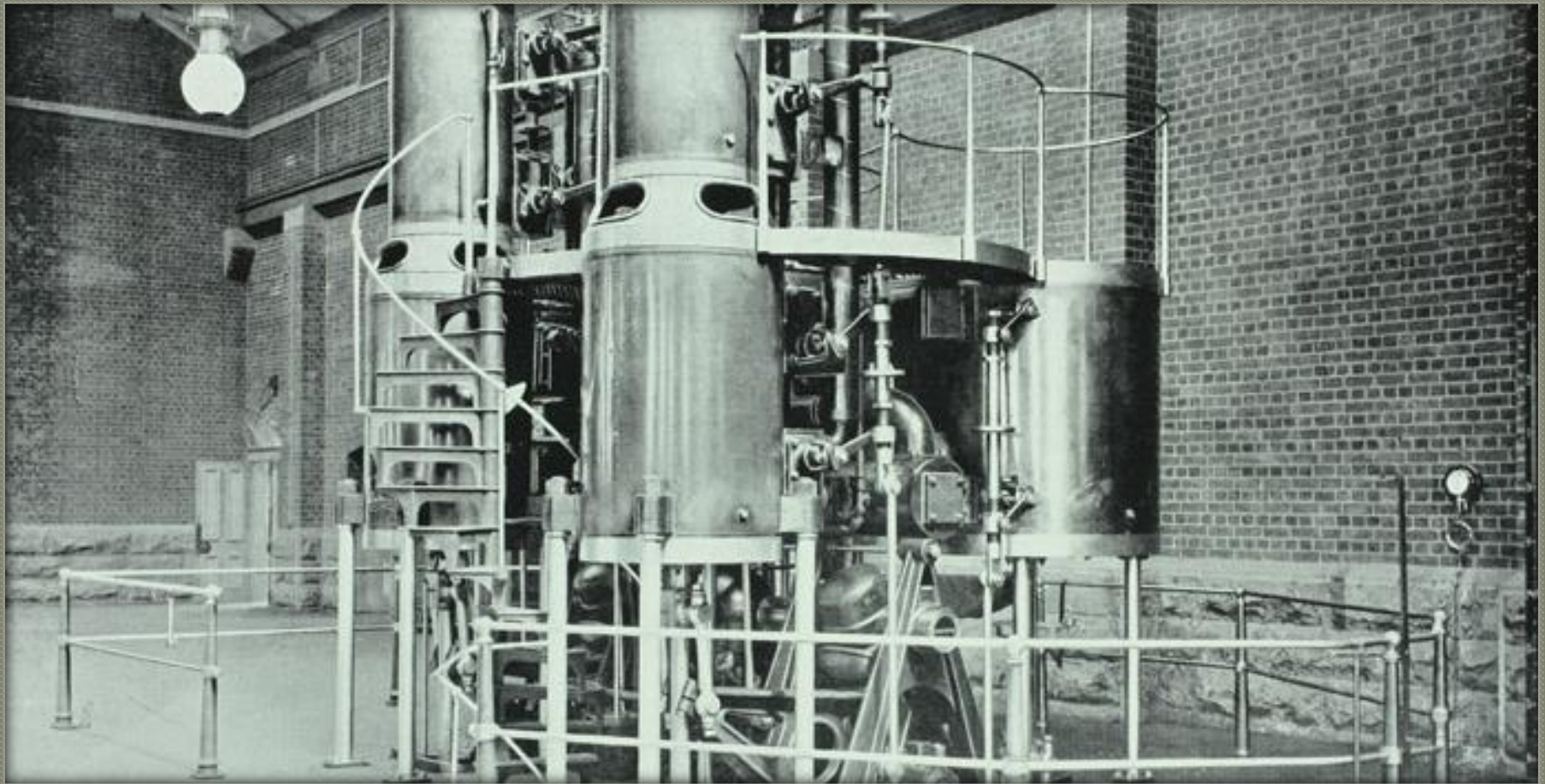
Slum housing in Birmingham

This left many people out of work, so they flocked to the towns in search of jobs in new industries. By the middle of the nineteenth century over half of the population lived in towns and cities.



A cotton mill making fabric

The Industrial Revolution rapidly gained pace during Victoria's reign because of the **power of steam**. Victorian engineers developed bigger, faster and more powerful machines that could run whole factories. This led to a massive increase in the number of factories.



A steam engine used to power a factory

By 1870, over 100,000 steam engines were at work throughout Britain. Industry depended on steam and steam depended on coal. The number of coalfields doubled between 1851 and 1881. In 1856 Henry Bessemer invented a method for converting iron into steel quickly. Ships, bridges and building could now be bigger.



A young girl working at a cotton mill

Despite the growing wealth due to trade and commerce, many of the working people, who actually produced the wealth, lived, worked and died in very poor conditions.

Most cities and towns were not prepared for the great increase of people looking for accommodation to live near their work place.



The Black Country, Night with a Foundry by Edwin Butler Bayliss

Many factory owners put profit above the health and safety of their workers. Children and young women were employed in terrible conditions in textile mills and mines. Furnaces were operated without proper safety checks.

Workers in factories and mills were deafened by steam hammers and machinery. Hours were long and there were no holidays.



**Coalbrookdale by Night by Philip James de
Loutherbourg.**

Conditions in the Midlands were very poor. It was a very heavily industrialised area and had been since the 1700's when Abraham Darby had discovered a way of making iron in huge ovens called furnaces.



The SOHO MANUFACTORY near BIRMINGHAM.

The factory made coins and metal objects

Birmingham also was very heavily industrialised. Matthew Boulton and James Watt had build huge factories that created a lot of wealth- but not for the workers! This is the time that John, Richard and George Cadbury lived through.

Over to you...

- ◉ Look at the following two paintings.
- ◉ With your partner, discuss what you can see and how they make you feel.
- ◉ What would it be like to live and work in these places?
- ◉ Then choose one and create your own version.



The Black Country, Night with a Foundry by Edwin Butler Bayliss



Coalbrookdale by Night by Philip James de Loutherbourg.