Working conditions

- **Children and women in work**
  - Over 65% of the workforce in textile mills were women and children
    - Menial and unskilled roles
    - Men had the skilled roles
    - Roles reversed
      - Women used to have skilled textile jobs
  - **Children 30% of workforce** in many factories
    - Started working around 6/7 years old
  - Family
    - Unmarried women lived with their families
    - Married women used their pay as vital supplement to the family income
    - In many families, children's income was essential
- **Hours**
  - **12 to 14 hours** on average
    - **6 days a week**
  - Few breaks
- **Pay (in textile)**
  - Skilled men
    - Between £2 and £2.25 a week
      - More than enough to maintain a family
  - Unskilled men
    - From 70p a week
      - Not enough for a family -- needed wives and children to work
  - Women
    - Between 35p and 60p a week
      - Children even less
      - 'Starvation wages'
- **Atmosphere and safety**
  - Noisy
    - Had to learn to lip-read
  - Terrible sanitation
    - No health regulations
  - Unsafe, no safety regulations
    - Children had to clean moving machinery
      - Stopping the looms lowered production → Cost money
      - Serious injuries
    - Machinery unguarded
    - No compensation for those injured or killed at work
      - Could not work anymore → Poverty
      - Family of the killed also lost income
      - Lifelong disabilities
        - "Factory cripples"
  - 'Paupers'
    - Poor orphan children
    - Were exploited
      - Cheap expendable labour
      - Deprived of adequate food, play, education and housing
- **Exceptions = Robert Owen**
  - Socialist writer and thinker
  - Huge factory complex
    - New Lanark, Scotland
    - **Employed nearly 2000 workers**
      - Majority women and children
  - Reform
    - **8 hour day**
    - **Education for children**
      - Financial records show he once brought in a crocodile for a lesson on exotic animals
    - Safe working conditions
    - Decent housing

Presented with xmind