

# Industrialization

*The Development of the Industrial  
United States (1870–1900)*



**A changing economy**

**Big business**

**Labor**

## Thematic Icons



**Economics and business**



**Geography and environment**



**Historical concepts and questions**



**Politics, government and citizenship**



**Society and culture**



**War, diplomacy and foreign policy**

**Icons:** For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page



By the end of this section, you will understand the changes to the American economy during industrialization, including:

- Mechanization
- Natural resources
- Urban and rural life
- Regional differences.



# Looking back timeline



In order to contextualize industrialization,  
use this timeline to recap previous key  
historical events.

Either press on a date or drag the pointer  
along the timeline to find out information  
about what happened in each year.

Press **start** to begin.

**start**





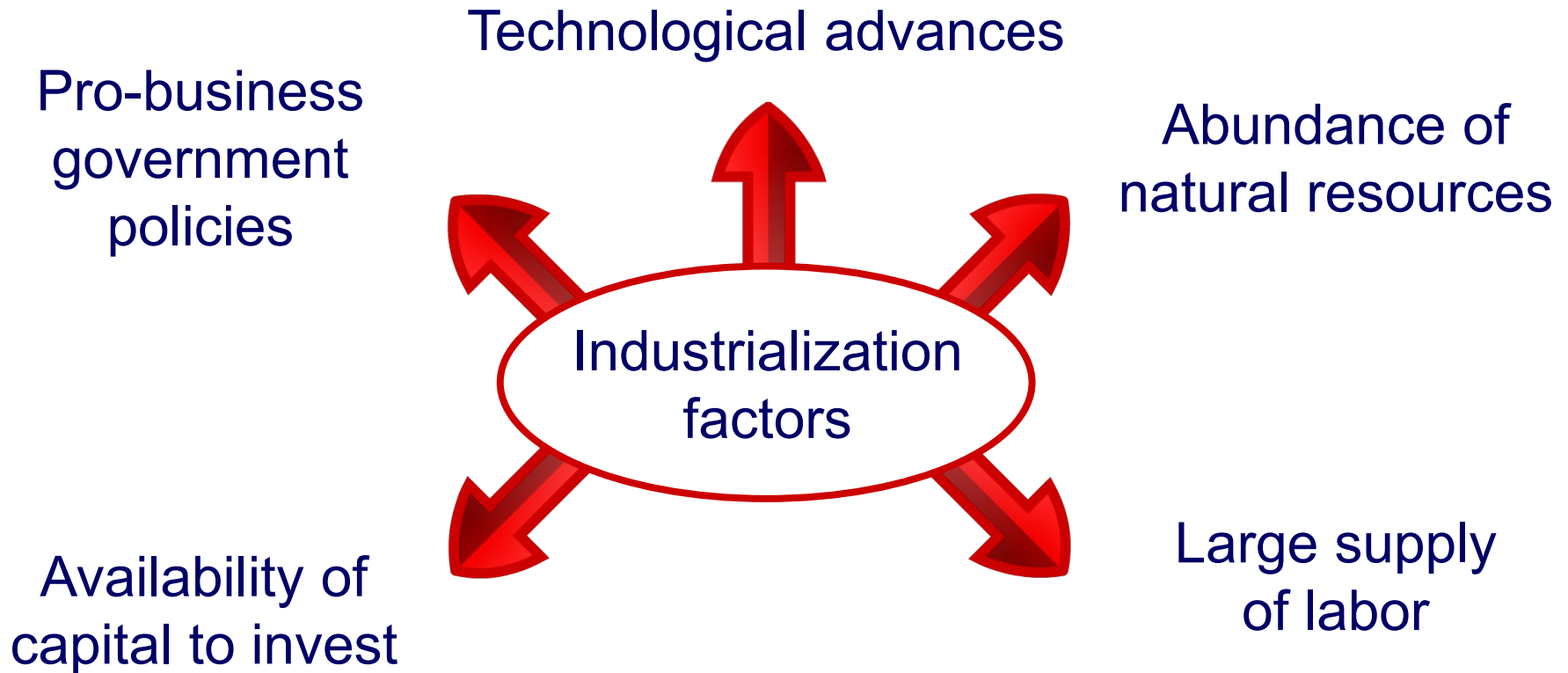
The onslaught of innovation and **mechanization** that took place during **industrialization** drastically changed the future of America and the world.

- Over the course of 50 years, the U.S. went from merely producing raw materials to being the largest industrial power in the world.
- Near major cities, vast expanses of natural beauty suddenly became a patchwork of smog-laden areas, polluted waterways, tilled earth, and logged forests.
- The impact of industrialization led to huge social changes, including **urbanization** and lifestyle changes for many.





Industrialization and rapid growth occurred in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century due to the combination of several key factors.



How did each of these factors contribute to growth?



One of the reasons the U.S. was able to industrialize quickly and become so wealthy was its abundance of natural resources. Use this interactive map to view the location of key deposits of natural resources and U.S. geographical features by pressing them on the menu pane.  
Press **start** to begin.

**start**



What resources were gained as the U.S. expanded?



# A changing landscape



Industrialization changed the landscape of America forever. The wilderness was devastated in order to obtain raw materials, and cities and transport networks increasingly came to dominate the landscape.



What do these images show about the U.S.'s transition at this time? How does this relate to the present?





# Rural to urban migration



One of the most drastic changes during this period of industrialization was the shift from rural to urban life. Choose data from the sets on the right to plot graphs to show this population change.  
Press **start** to begin.

start





During the period of industrialization, many people moved to find employment in cities, many of which grew rapidly. However, agriculture still remained an important part of American life. Press the buttons to find out more about city life and farm life. Press **start** to begin.

start





Differences between the economies of the North and South had been in existence since colonial times. In the early years of the new nation, the conflict was personified by Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson.

- Hamilton and men of the North believed industry and banking were important for the future of the U.S.
- Jefferson and men of the South, with their warmer climates, believed agriculture was vital.



During the industrial era, the North boomed, drawing people and money to it. Meanwhile, the South became indebted to Northern merchants, industrialists and creditors.



Can you trace the history of economic differences?