**World History**

**Measurement Topic 2: Industrial Expansion & Imperialism**

Learning target #1: Why was England the first country to industrialize?

Directions:

1st- Number the paragraphs

2nd-Independently read the passage, and circle words you don’t know. Predict the meaning of the words.

3rd- Read the passage a second time with a partner. Highlight information and write side notes.

4th-Answer the questions on the back in complete sentences.

In the 1900’s many nations began to change from agricultural based to more industrial. Most families would produce/make what they needed at home, very rarely purchasing/buying things from others. England was one of the first nations to go from being agricultural based to industrialized. Industrialization is when a nation uses natural resources (things found in nature/not man made) and turns them into different products. This process is usually done large scale, in a factory, quickly and much cheaper than any that could be done at home or by a single person. England was the first nation to industrialize for many different reasons. They has plenty of food, their population had increased, they had plenty of capital/money to use, plenty of natural resources, a stable government and markets/ or places to sale their finished products.

For many years people had farmed small areas of land near their homes for their families. If they had any extra food they would store it for times when food was sparse or they would sell what little they had left for other good they needed. However, in the early 1800 better farming techniques were created which resulted in larger quantities of food being produced. People’s fear of dying from starvation decreased. A new crop, the potato, also helped to increase the food supply. Between the better farming techniques and the new crop, the potato, England had plenty of food to supply their population.

As a result of the increasing in food, the population of England also increased. People felt stable enough to have larger families and not worry about their children or themselves starving. The increase in population led to people who needed to work since farming techniques were so efficient less people were needed to work on the farms so people moved to town find work.

In the 1800’s new inventions were created to help create products faster; the spinning Jenny, cotton gin, and the steam engine. These inventions turned making cotton to clothing from a long process. Something that once took days or week to be completed could be done in a matter of minutes or hours. Entrepreneurs, people with capital/money, wanted to invest their money into these new inventions to create more money. Entrepreneurs would buy the land, inventions, build the factories, buy the natural resources, and hire the workers who would then create products such as clothes to sell all around the world. New inventions were constantly being created to help improve the process.

England also had the precise supply of natural resources to help them be the first nation to industrialize and turn from being just agrarian (farming) based. England had a large supply of large navigable/passable rivers. Factories were built near rivers for their water supply for the steam engines and also to transport the natural resources to the factories and the finished products to sea ports and out to other nations. England had a large supply of coal, a rock that is mined from the ground that was used as fuel to warm the water to fun the steam engines. England also had a large supply of iron which was used to build the large factories.

England was also the first nation to industrialize because they had a very stable government, unlike other nations. England’s government allowed Entrepreneurs to invest their money how they wanted, run their business with very little inference from the government, so many people with any capital/money were willing to invest in factories.

England also had a vast empire around the world. England had set up colonies, places it controlled outside of England, all around the world. As a result of this vast empire, as well as the fact that England (Britain) had the best navy in the world, England had the ability above all other nations to ship their finished products to markets (stores/places) all over the world. Also due to the population growth in England and the fact that more people were working, the population in England was also purchasing more products because they had the capital as well to purchase goods not have to create them at home.

As a result of England having markets, a stable government, natural resources, capital, the population and the food supply they were the first nation in the world to become industrialized.

**Directions: Answer the following** **questions after you have read and highlighted the above passage.**

1. What were the six things that contributed to Great Britain being the first to industrialize?
2. Why is capital important when industrializing?
3. Why was an increase in the food supply important to industrialize?
4. What function do people play when a country wants to industrialize?
5. What natural resources helped England industrialize and how did it help?
6. Who would England sell their products too?
7. Write a summary explaining how Great Britain (England) was able to industrialize (5 sentences)