

## Birkenhead

John Laird was a major figure in Birkenhead (becoming the first mayor) and was involved in the draining of the marshland for development purposes. His statue stands in Hamilton square, one of the finer 19th century developments in Britain.

Birkenhead Park was laid out over the period 1843-47 under architect Joseph Paxton. It contains two artificial lakes, cricket and football pitches and driveways. Paxton went on to help design Britain's Houses of Parliament.

William Hesketh (later Lord) Lever established his business here in 1860, making soaps and detergents. The industry took advantage of north-west coal and electricity to make soda from the nearby Cheshire salt reserves. Imports of vegetable fats through the Mersey ports provided the other ingredients.

The Mersey Railway tunnel opened in 1886, providing direct railway access to Liverpool.

## Children's jobs

Farm work  
Trade apprentice- Butcher, Baker, Funeral Parlour etc.  
Chimney Sweep  
Factory worker- cleaning machinery  
Trapper- Open and shut doors in mines to allow release of gases.  
Drawer- Pull carts of coal by a chain around their waist out of the mines.

## Street Children

Run Errands  
Shoe shine  
Sweep streets in front of the rich  
Begging  
Stealing  
Selling: Flowers, Matchsticks, Boot laces, Buttons, Firewood.



## What I should already know

Some understanding of British and local history.  
Key events in British history.  
Be able to make connections and contrasts between historic and modern events.

# History of the UK beyond 1066 - Year 5

## Government Reforms

**1842** - Mines Act stopped women and children under 10 working in mines

**1844** - Factory Act stopped children between 8-12 from working more than 6½ hours a day

**1847** - Factory Act limited women and children under 18 to a 58-hour working week

**1864** - Boys under 10 were banned from being chimney sweeps

**1874** - Ten Hour Factory Act meant that people could not be made to work for more than 10 hours a day and children under 14 could not be employed fulltime

**1878** - Factory and Workshop Act banned the employment of children under 10

**1880** - Education Act made it compulsory for children up to 12 to go to school, but most children had to pay

**1891** - Education is free and compulsory for all 5-13 year olds

## By the end of this topic

I will have a more adept understanding of the history of Britain and Birkenhead.  
I will know about key events in British history including significant inventions.  
I will be able to make connections between history and modern day, using appropriate terms when providing narratives.  
I will have investigated and questioned why certain changes occurred, how different they are and why/how they are significant.

## Vocabulary

Urban	Town environment
Slum	Poor housing area
Orphan	Child with no parents
Workhouse	Home for the poor
Cane	Stick used for punishment
Factory	Building with machines
Governess	Home teacher
Nanny	Raises rich children

## Inventions

1840	Stamps
1846	Sewing Machine
1849	Concrete
1851	Ice Cream
1852	Flushing Toilet
1854	Steel Production
1873	Typewriter
1876	Telephone
1878	Electric Street Lighting
1885	First Motorcar
1894	Moving Pictures (film)