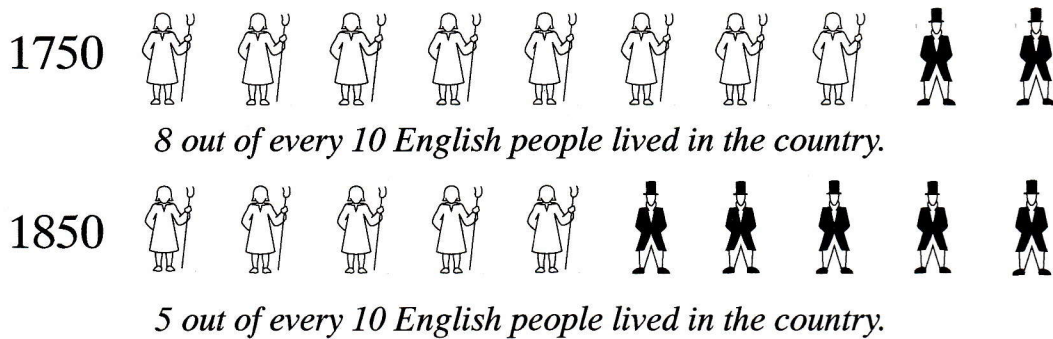


Urbanization

In the mid 1700s, more than half of the population in Britain lived and worked on farms. Between 1750 and 1851, the population increased dramatically. At the same time, the enclosure of open fields into compact farms displaced many small farming families. These families often moved to towns to find work in factories and workshops.

As industry grew, more people moved into urban areas, creating huge population increases in the cities. The figures on the change in the rural and urban populations are as follows:



Factory owners rushed to build workers' housing, which was dark, poorly constructed, and badly ventilated. Houses were built back to back in long rows, and people lived in cramped conditions. Poor families had only a basement or an outhouse to sleep in, and orphans and the unemployed were forced to live on the street. Twenty families shared one toilet and water pump. Without proper sewers or trash collection, garbage littered the streets, so diseases like typhoid, measles, and cholera spread quickly. Crime was also a persistent problem since there was no official police force.

Extremely hard work, combined with the harsh living conditions of the workers in the cities, led to much shorter life expectancy for city-dwellers, as can be seen below:



In 1842 a farmer in a rural area could expect to live 38 years.



In 1842 a worker in the city of Manchester could expect to live only 17 years.

Urbanization



Here we see Gustave Doré's engraving of urban poverty on the streets of London in 1872.