Name Class Date

17

As great cities mushroomed in the Industrial Revolution, city life changed. Some  
people found great cities exciting; others found them appalling, even frightening. In  
these two letters to their families, composer Felix Mendelssohn and historian  
Thomas Carlyle give their views of London in the 1820s. ♦ *As you read, think about  
each writer’s reaction. Then, on a separate sheet of paper, answer the questions that follow.*



ques

**1.** What aspects of the city of London make a  
strong impression on both writers?

**2.** What signs of business and commerce does  
Mendelssohn notice on the houses?

**3. Make Comparisons** In what ways do the two  
writers agree in their reactions to the city of  
London? How do their reactions differ?

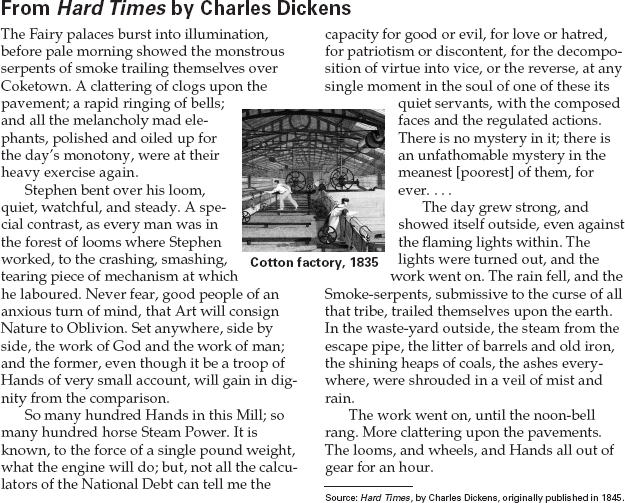
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**9**

Name Class Date

18

In *Hard Times,* Charles Dickens protests the dehumanizing conditions of factory life  
in nineteenth-century England. In this excerpt from the novel, Dickens describes early  
morning in a fictional factory town named Coketown. (Coke is a form of coal.) In  
Coketown, people work under the harsh conditions of the early Industrial Revolution.  
♦ *As you read, think about what it might have been like to work in a factory like the one  
described in this excerpt. Then, on a separate sheet of paper, answer the questions that follow.*



ques

**1.** What kind of work does Stephen do?

**2.** According to Dickens, what is it impossible to  
calculate?

**3. Draw Inferences** Why does Dickens refer to  
the workers in the factory as “Hands”?

**4. Draw Conclusions** Based on this excerpt,  
what is Dickens’ general attitude toward the  
Industrial Revolution?

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**10**