Name Class Date



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.*





**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



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.*





**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?



**10**