Aging through the ages

industrial revolution

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Summary:**

This session takes a look at the day-to-day life during the Industrial Revolution and explores how, in this time period, society lacked a place in the workforce and a vision for continued contribution by older adults, thus birthing ageism and ableism.

*“I’m fascinated by the period that goes from the industrial Revolution to right after World War II. There’s something about that period that’s epic and tragic.” -Carlos Ruiz Zafon, Spanish novelist*

# NOTES:

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# Activity: List the pro and cons of this period.

Think about the Industrial Revolution with all of the inventions and the economic, environmental and societal changes. Note the benefits and impacts of this time in the boxes below. Once your thoughts are complete, compare to answers to those listed on the next page.

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| Benefits: |

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| Cons or consequences: |

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| Benefits:  Labor saving machines created mass production of tools, clothing and goods.  Faster transportation of large goods and services.  Faster communication over a distance.  More employment opportunities in factories.  Lower costs of goods allowed individuals to save more, growing the middle class.  Increase production of medical equipment supported physicians in better care of patients.  Increase in company profits and reinvestment created stronger economies and richer nations.  Increase in government tax revenue supported investment in sanitation systems and the construction of buildings, housing and roads.  Growth of supporting business in towns. |

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| Cons or consequences:  Rapid growth of factory workers in towns and cities resulted in poor-quality living conditions – close housing, contaminated water and poor sanitation increased the spread of disease.  Increase in use of natural resources to fuel factories impacted land and animal life and created the beginning of air and water pollution.  Factory owners prized profit over all else - low employee wages and poor working conditions. Labor-saving devices and stationary jobs created less need for physical activity decreasing physical stamina.  Preservatives like salts and sugars needed in foods transported over distances or stored for lengthy periods impacted diet and health.  Older adults no longer were embraced as they had been in this new form of society where emphasis was on production and work that required long hours, little rest, meager rations and short recovery periods. |

Source: [The Rise of Machines: Pros and Cons of the Industrial Revolution](https://www.britannica.com/story/the-rise-of-the-machines-pros-and-cons-of-the-industrial-revolution)

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kaizen step

1) Goal I want to accomplish: (Example: Increase awareness of ageism occurring within my family/living area/wider public community).

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2) One step I could take toward that goal: (Example: Learn more about ageism)

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3) Ways I can break the step above into smaller actions: (List all the actions you can think of, even though you may not choose to complete all of them. Examples: Use Google to identify definitions, examples, resources and research on ageism. Search TED Talks for this topic. Look up local speakers or organizations addressing ageism. Over a 24-hour period listen for examples of ageism in television shows, movies, ads, and everyday conversations.)

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