

# Captains of American Industry FlashCharts

**GRADES 5-6**

## Captains of American Industry

### The Industrial Revolution

Have you ever wondered what life was like before the invention of railroads, cars, tall buildings, and even packaged goods? Up until the mid-1700s, people worked by hand or used simple machines to make products. New goods took a long time and a lot of hard work to make. But then something changed. People began hearing about new machines being invented and used in big cities. These new machines ran on steam or coal and were able to do work much faster than a person ever could.

Many left their farms and small towns to find work in the city. They wanted to work with these machines and be part of a new way of life. The United States began to grow at a rapid pace. This period in time became known as the Industrial Revolution. It was a time like no other, when huge changes were made to the way people lived and worked.

**Captains of Industry**

The Industrial Revolution began in England in the 1700s. By the early 1800s, new ideas about machinery spread to other parts of Europe and then to the United States. People were beginning to demand more products to make their lives easier. To meet the demand, inventors had to come up with ways to produce items quickly and cheaply. This led to great new inventions, such as the steam engine. New ways to make new steel, and spinning machines could now make cloth much faster than a person ever could. The Second Industrial Revolution was the period between 1870 and 1914 when major advances in new technologies took place. Banking, transportation, and new ways to communicate all changed during this time. A lot of very smart, forward-thinking men stepped up to lead the way. Men such as Cornelius Vanderbilt, J. P. Morgan, Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller, and Henry Ford were pioneers of business in industry during this time. They came up with new ideas, taking great risks to help grow our nation and improve people's lives.

**FACT!** Before the invention of Benjamin Franklin's lightning rod, people were struck by lightning much more often than they are today. The first lightning rods were made of iron and were used to protect the White House in 1752.

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## Reviews

*Absolutely essential study publication. It usually fails to expense an excessive amount of. Your lifestyle period will probably be transform when you full looking at this publication.  
(Ms. Allene Conroy)*

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