Child labour

In England in the 18th and 19th centuries, many children worked long hours in mines and factories. In coal mines, children aged only five or six sat in the dark all day opening and shutting doors to let coal trucks pass through.

In 1833, a law was passed preventing children under 13 from working more than nine hours a day. The silk manufacturers claimed that they would be ruined as a result.

Many children worked in the mines and missed out on proper schooling.