# Trend Task: Biscuits

 Approach:
 One to one

 Focus:
 Exploring technological change and its impact

 Resources:
 2 pictures

## Questions / instructions:

This activity is about factories where biscuits are made.

Here are two pictures.

#### Give student picture 1 (old factory).

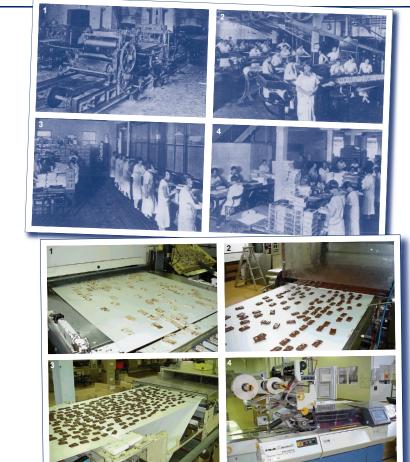
This picture shows a factory where biscuits were made about 50 years ago.

### Give student picture 2 (modern factory).

This picture shows a modern factory where biscuits are being made now.

#### Place pictures 1 and 2 alongside each other.

Now I would like you to think about the main changes in biscuit factories from fifty years ago to nowadays.



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	% response 2004 ('00)			% response 2004 ('00)	
<ol> <li>What changes do you notice about the factories?</li> </ol>	year 4	year 8	3. How have these changes affected people's lives?	year 4	year 8
more modern, sophisticated machinery	74 (72)	90 (89)	distribution networks allow fewer,	- (-)	
fewer or no people involved	67 (59)	85 (90)	larger, centralised factories	2 (0)	1 (3)
more hygenic methods	4 (2)	13 (16)	higher safety/hygiene requirements	4 (5)	8 (17)
less dangerous conditions for workers	1 (2)	5 (3)	less employment (overall)	12 (8)	41 (61)
······	- (-/	- (-)	shift from manual to more sophisticated jobs	18 (9)	21 (18)
2. Why have these changes happened?			less work-related health problems	3 (0)	4 (1)
quantity of biscuits required has increased	4 (2)	11 (9)	factory-made biscuits now readily available, cheaper and widely consumed		
increased cost of employing people	3 (3)	12 (16)		4 (0)	8 (12)
more sophisticated machinery developed /available	38 (38)	60 (73)	Total score: 6–13	2 (0)	9 (15)
			4–5	17 (9)	41 (54)
			3	22 (29)	29 (17)
			2	28 (24)	16 (8)
			0–1	31 (38)	5 (6)

## Commentary:

Students generally commented on the development and use of more sophisticated machinery and the reduction in labour, but largely missed the other issues. About 30 percent more year 8 than year 4 students gained a total score of four or more. Compared to four years earlier, year 4 students had gained slightly, but year 8 students scored slightly lower.