

Trend Task: Biscuits

Approach: One to one
 Focus: Exploring technological change and its impact
 Resources: 2 pictures

Year: 4 & 8

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.



	% response 2004 ('00)			% response 2004 ('00)	
	year 4	year 8		year 4	year 8
1. What changes do you notice about the factories?			3. How have these changes affected people's lives?		
more modern, sophisticated machinery	74 (72)	90 (89)	distribution networks allow fewer, larger, centralised factories	2 (0)	1 (3)
fewer or no people involved	67 (59)	85 (90)	higher safety/hygiene requirements	4 (5)	8 (17)
more hygienic methods	4 (2)	13 (16)	less employment (overall)	12 (8)	41 (61)
less dangerous conditions for workers	1 (2)	5 (3)	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	4 (0)	8 (12)
increased cost of employing people	3 (3)	12 (16)	Total score:	6-13	2 (0)
more sophisticated machinery developed /available	38 (38)	60 (73)		4-5	17 (9)
				3	22 (29)
				2	28 (24)
				0-1	31 (38)
					9 (15)
					41 (54)
					29 (17)
					16 (8)
					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.