







WE, the undersigned, respectfully request that you will be leased to call a PUBLIC MEETING of the Inhabitants of the Borough of Morpeth, to take into consideration the propriety of petitioning Parliament against "A Bill for regulating the employment f children and young persons in Factories, and for the better Education of children in Factory districts."

Anthy. Charlton M. Brown W. Froggatt H. Owen W. Clarke W. Woodman Thos. Bowser James Hood Geo. Roberts Thomas Hopper Peter Blair Ralph Walker R. D. Burn John Taylor William Atkinson William Grahamsley

Samuel Purdy

William Grey

Thos. Jobling

William Creighton George Duncan Michael Clarke James Watson Joseph M'Kay G. A. Lowe John Lyon Joseph Jobling John Rogers Wm. Black Thos. Chatto · John Flint James Mitcheson James Tait Joseph Thew Robt. Earsdon Thomas Little Wm. Fairley D. F. Wilson

n Friday, the 21st, at half-past 6 o'Clock in the Evening.

BLAIR, PRINTER, MORPETH

Dated the 20th April, 1843. Robert Bates James Cresswell Edwd. Atkinson James Mackay W. Walton Geo. Mackay John Watson William Watson Edwd. Matteson Geo. Challoner James Burn John Matteson Robt. Matteson John Riddell George Heir **Thomas Robertson** Robert Hall William Reay · Jas. Henry Jobling In compliance with the above requisition I appoint a Public leeting of the Inhabitants of Morpeth to be held in the Town-Hall,

## PRINTED NOTICE ABOUT MEETING TO DISCUSS FACTORY BILL, 1843

REFERENCE: SANT/BEQ/28/1/5/134 | SUGGESTED AGE GROUPS: KS3, KS4, LIFELONG LEARNERS | TOPIC AREAS: VICTORIANS, INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION, HISTORY OF CHILDHOOD

In 1840 Parliament set up the Children's Employment Commission. The aim of the Commission was to investigate the working conditions of children under the age of 18. As well as reporting on the conditions of children working in mines, the Commission also questioned children working in factories.

Many children were interviewed for the Commission. They were asked about their working hours, the conditions, if they had been ill and if they could read and write. The Commission found that many of the children did not go to school. Lots of the children that they talked to could not read and write properly.

Sir James Graham put a Bill before parliament (made a suggestion for an Act) that would set up schools for children working in factories and make sure that children had the time to go to lessons. This Bill, which is mentioned in the notice, was not made into law.

This poster asks people to come to a meeting to sign a petition against the Bill.

## OTHER ONLINE RESOURCES

British Library website, page about "The Life and Adventures of Michael Armstrong, the Factory Boy: https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/the-life-andadventures-of-michael-armstrong-the-factory-boy

British Library website, page about "Factory Children. A Short Description of the factory system": https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/factory-children-ashort-description-of-the-factory-system







## PRINTED NOTICE ABOUT MEETING TO DISCUSS FACTORY BILL, 1843

TOPIC: VICTORIANS, INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION, HISTORY OF CHILDHOOD SUBJECT AREAS: HISTORY, LITERACY, POLITICS, TECHNOLOGY



Background	Activity	Resources
In 1840 Parliament set up the	See: When did Parliament set up the Children's Employment	https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/factory-
Children's Employment Commission.  The aim of the Commission was to investigate the working conditions	Commission?  See: What was the aim of the Children's Employment Commission?	<u>children-a-short-description-of-the-factory-</u> <u>system</u>
of children under the age of 18. As well as reporting on the conditions	See: Who did the Commission interview?	https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/the-life- and-adventures-of-michael-armstrong-the-
of children working in mines, the	See: What types of questions did the Commission ask?	<u>factory-boy</u>
Commission also questioned children working in factories.	See: What were the findings of the Commission's interviews?	https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/report- on-child-labour-1842
	<b>Think:</b> Why was the Children's Employment Commission set up?	https://mediaspace.baylor.edu/channel/Vict
	Think: Why were children used as factory workers?	orian%2BPoetry%253A%2BCry%2Bof%2Bthe %2BChildren%2BExhibition/87020132
	Think: What types of jobs did the children do in factories?	https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/
	Think: What types of conditions did the children work in?	43725/the-cry-of-the-children
	<b>Think:</b> What types of backgrounds do you think the children who worked in factories came from?	







	Think: Why couldn't many of the children read or write?	https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/a-voice-
		from-the-factories-a-poem-by-caroline-
	Think: How much do you think the children earned?	norton-about-19th-century-child-labour
	Think: Do you think any changes were made because of the	https://www.bl.wk/wowles/thee.com.of.thee
	Children's Employment Commission?	https://www.bl.uk/works/the-cry-of-the-children
		<u>ciliureii</u>
	<b>Do:</b> Imagine you are conducting interviews for the Children's	https://digital.library.upenn.edu/women/no
	Employment Commission with factory children. Write a list of	rton/avftf/avftf.html
	questions that you would ask the children about their working	
	conditions and experience in the factory.	
	<b>Do:</b> In pairs, interview each other as though you are a factory child	
	and an interviewer for the Children's Employment Commission.	
	<b>Do:</b> Research the Report on Child Labour 1842. Create a	
	presentation showing the findings of the report and the short- and	
	long-term outcomes.	
	<b>Do:</b> Look at the poems "A Voice from the Factories" – Caroline	
	Sheridan Norton (1836) and "Cry of the Children" – Elizabeth Barrett	
	Browning (1843). What do the poems tell you about child labour and	
	the poet's views on factory children? How did poetry raise	
	awareness of the issue and contribute to change?	
	De William Commission	
	<b>Do:</b> Write your own poem condemning child labour inspired by	
	Caroline Sheridan Norton, Elizabeth Barrett Browning and the	
	Children's Employment Commission Reports.	
Sir James Graham put a Bill before		https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/factory-
parliament (made a suggestion for		children-a-short-description-of-the-factory-
an Act) that would set up schools for	See: Who put the factory Bill before Parliament?	system
children working in factories and	See: What does it mean to put a Bill before Parliament?	
	The state of the state of part a sin service i amanient.	







make sure that children had the time to go to lessons. This Bill, which is mentioned in the notice, was not made into law.

See: What did the factory Bill propose to do?

See: Was the Bill made into law?

Think: Why did the inhabitants of Morpeth want the Mayor to call a public meeting?

Think: What would the inhabitants of Morpeth have discussed at the meeting?

Think: Do you think the inhabitants of Morpeth would have been for or against the Bill?

**Think:** Why did so many people sign the printed notice asking for the meeting to take place?

Think: Why do you think Sir James Graham's Bill was not made into law?

Do: In groups, re-enact Sir James Graham putting the Bill before Parliament and debate the Bill. Who might have been present? What might Sir James have said? Who might have been for the Bill and who might have been against it? What would their reasons have been?

Do: Research the conditions of children working in factories in the early 1840s. Create your own Bill with what you think the priorities for change should have been.

Do: Imagine you attended the meeting in Morpeth to discuss the factory Bill. Write a newspaper article about the meeting. Consider what might have prompted the meeting, what might have been discussed and what the outcomes may have been.

https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/the-lifeand-adventures-of-michael-armstrong-thefactory-boy

https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/reporton-child-labour-1842

https://mediaspace.baylor.edu/channel/Vict orian%2BPoetry%253A%2BCry%2Bof%2Bthe %2BChildren%2BExhibition/87020132







<b>Do:</b> Watch the videos made by Baylor University for the "Cry of the	
Children" exhibition. Create your own video highlighting the	
experiences of one of the interviewed children.	