Living in the Industrial Era	-During this era, the gap between rich and poor grew at an alarming rate. Charles Dickens: wrote novels describing the hard life of many people in England during the 1800s. Benjamin Disraeli: Was Prime Minister of England. --Passed laws to help working people. <u>3 class of people:</u> --Upper Class: land owning aristocracy, and successful capitalists. --Middle Class: skilled craftsman, shop owners, lawyers, doctors. --Working Poor (peasants): 80% of the people. Factory workers, had hobbies, religious life, frequented neighborhood taverns (since homes were quite small) →Many amusements and distractions came about at this time(zoos, fairs and expositions, carnivals, circus, public parks)
Protesting Industrialization 1812	The Luddites: Angry group of workers that tried to stop the Industrial Revolution (1811-1816 in the weaving districts of London) -Demanded machines be scrapped. -Known for destroying factories and machines. Why? --many benefited from Industrial Revolution: more job opportunities, cheaper goods --many suffered: dangerous work conditions, skilled workers replaced by machines. →saw progress and industry as unfair and evil.
Workers' associations and strikes	-Workers began organizing themselves in groups to help each other Began to strike: began to voice concerns over working conditions and pay. Would stop working until conditions changed (risky business since many were willing to take their jobs) --often ended in violent confrontations.
Robert Owen	-Factory owner known for investing in his workers and their communities (opened first day-care, paid fair wages) Tried to establish a perfect community. Was an early believer in Socialism: A system of gov't. in which the state controls the economy and runs business for the benefit of citizens.