

Rich. Arkwright



King
Cotton
or Spin
Doctor?

Life Magazine in America published a list of the **top 100 people of the Millennium** in order of who had been most important in the last 2000 because of their impact.

*Thomas Edison * Christopher Columbus * Martin Luther * Galileo * Leonardo da Vinci *
Isaac Newton * Ferdinand Magellan * Louis Pasteur * Charles Darwin * Thomas Jefferson *
Shakespeare * Napoleon * Hitler * Zheng He * Henry Ford * Sigmund Freud *
Richard Arkwright * Karl Marx * Copernicus * The Wright Brothers * Albert Einstein * Gandhi *
Kublai Khan * James Madison * Simon Bolivar * Mary Wollstonecraft * Guglielmo Marconi *
Mao Zedong * Lenin * Martin Luther King Jr * Alexander Graham Bell * Descartes *
Beethoven * Thomas Aquinas * Abraham Lincoln * Michelangelo * Vasco de Gama *
Suleyman the Magnificent * Samuel Morse * John Calvin * Florence Nightingale *
Hernan Cortes * Joseph Lister * Ibn Battuta * Zhu Xi * Gregor Mendel * John Locke * Adam
Marco Polo * Dante * John D. Rockefeller * Jacques Rousseau * Niels Bohr * Joan
Frederick Douglass * Louis XIV * Nikola Tesla * Immanuel Kant * Fan Kuan *
Otto von Bismarck * William the Conqueror * Guido of Arrezzo * John Harrison *
Pope Innocent III * Hiram Maxim * Jane Addams * Cao Xueqin * Matteo Ricci *
Louis Armstrong * Michael Faraday * Ibn Sina * Simone de Beauvoir * Jalal ad-Din ar-Rumi *
Adam Smith * Marie Curie * Andrea Palladio * Peter the Great * Pablo Picasso *
Louis Jacques Mandes Daguerre * Antoine Laurent Lavoisier * Phineas T. Barnum *
Edwin Hubble * Susan B Anthony * Raphael * Helen Keller * Hokusai * Theodore Herzl *

Who do
you
recognise?

Who do you
think should
be at the top
today?

Life Magazine ranked Arkwright in 17th place.

Does he deserve to be in the top 20 most important people of the last 200 years?

*Thomas Edison * Christopher Columbus * Martin Luther * Galileo
Isaac Newton * Ferdinand Magellan * Louis Pasteur * Charles Darwin
Shakespeare * Napoleon * Hitler * Zheng He * Henry Ford
Richard Arkwright * Karl Marx * Wright Brothers
Kublai Khan * Jane Austen * William Wollstonecraft
Mao Zedong * Alexander the Great * Under Grant
Beethoven * Michelangelo *
Suleyman the Magnificent * Calvin * Florence Nightingale
Hernan Cortes * Gregor Mendel * John Locke * Albrecht Dürer
Marco Polo * Rousseau * Niels Bohr
Frederick Douglass * Immanuel Kant * Faust
Otto von Guericke * Guido of Arezzo * Johannes Vermeer
Pope Innocent III * Jane Addams * Cao Xueqin * Maimonides
Louis Armstrong * Michael Faraday * Ibn Sina * Simone de Beauvoir * Jalal al-Din Rumi
Ada Lovelace * Marie Curie * Andrea Palladio * Peter the Great * Patrice Lumumba
Louis Jacques Mandé Daguerre * Antoine Laurent Lavoisier * Phineas Gage
Edwin Hubble * Susan B Anthony * Raphael * Helen Keller * Hokusai * Theodore Roosevelt

Should Justin Bieber be on this list? Why?

What criteria would make someone important enough to be in the top 20?

He became the first person to top the charts at position 1,2 and 3 in 2016

B

B

C

Website 2018

Arkwright is considered the father of the modern industrial factory system and his inventions were a catalyst for the Industrial Revolution.

Why does the BBC think that Arkwright is significant?

A portrait of Sir Richard Arkwright, an 18th-century English inventor and industrialist. He is depicted sitting in a red upholstered chair, wearing a green coat over a white waistcoat and dark blue breeches. He holds a rolled-up document in his left hand. The background is a dark, textured red.

Rich. Arkwright

Sir Richard Arkwright
(1732-92) has been called:

King Cotton

*The Father of the Factory
System*

*The man who began the
Industrial Revolution*

Was this man really this
historically significant?

Being historically significant is same as being famous

What criteria
would make
someone
important enough
to be in the top
20?

When assessing a person's historical significance, historians consider:

1. Did their life **result in change** that had a big impact on people's lives
2. Are they **remembered** and talked about today?
3. Does a study of their life **reveal** (tell us something) something valuable about that period of time?

What does a timeline of his life tell us about whether he should be seen as significant in history?

Colour code any evidence that shows he meets the criteria to be seen as historically significant:

1. **changed something** that had a big impact on people's lives
2. they were **remembered** and talked about today.
3. Their life **reveals something** valuable about that period of time

Resource sheet 2

SUMMARY OF ARKWRIGHT'S LIFE AND CAREER

1750s

Worked as a wigmaker, barber and publican.

1768

Lived in Nottingham where he collaborated with John Kay on the production of a spinning machine. In June he applied for a patent for this machine which he received in the following year.

1769-71

Made further developments to the spinning machine with the help of Jedediah Strutt of Derby – a silk factory owner.

1771

Arkwright built a mill at Cromford Derbyshire using water power to operate the machinery. This led to his 'invention' the water-frame.

1774

Arkwright persuaded Parliament to end heavy tax on the sale of his cloth of 6d a yard. Arkwright's business prospers.

1775

He obtains a patent to control spinning.

1776-80

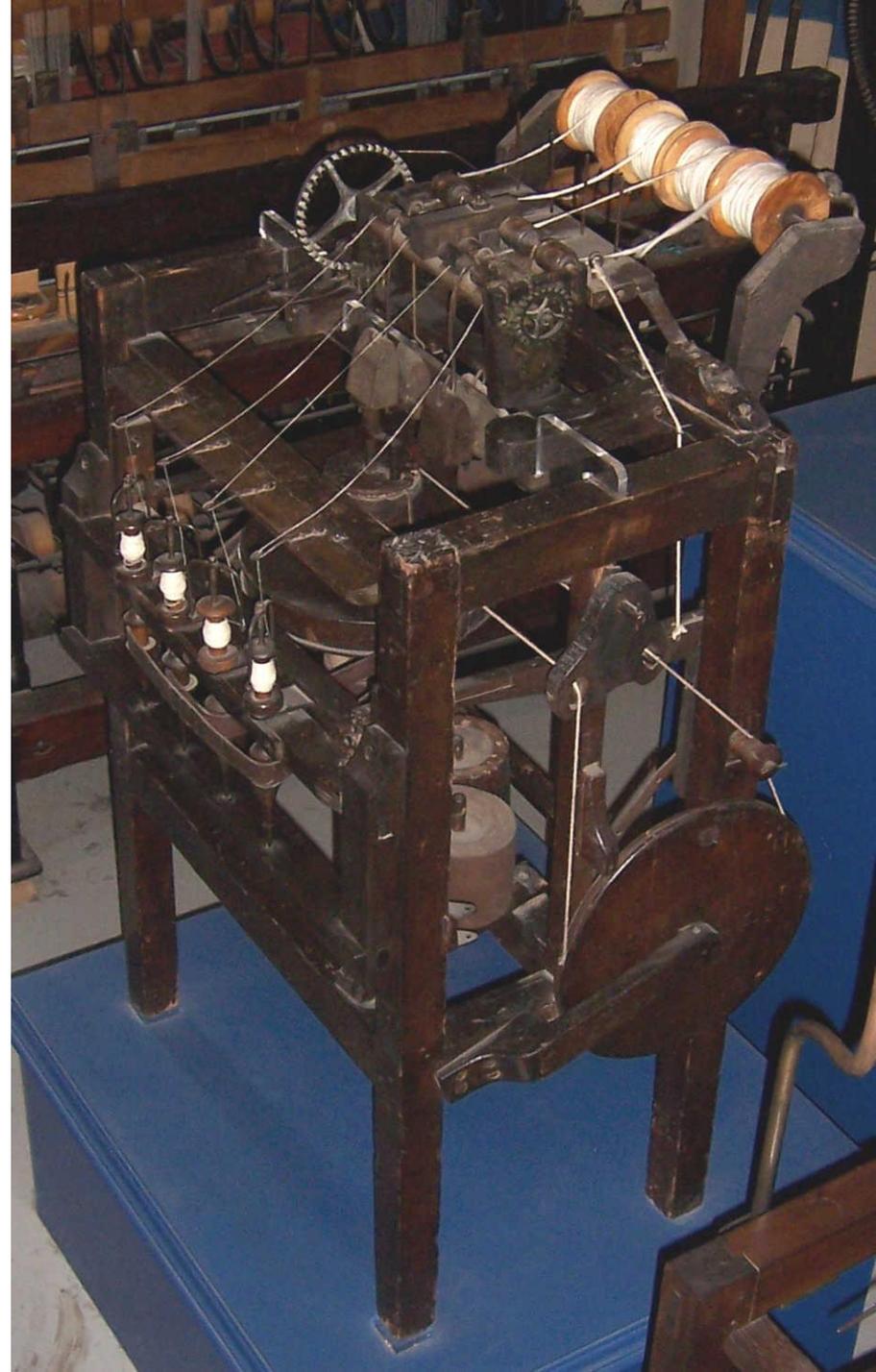
Builds new mills at Belper, Chorley and Cromford.

1781-85

Unsuccessfully defends his patents in court where it is proved that John Kay and Thomas Highs had substantially invented the machines to which he laid claim.

This was the first machine to **spin cotton** into a strong twist for warps. It used wooden and metal cylinders instead of people having to use their fingers. This made cotton-spinning inexpensive and fast.

Unskilled workers could operate it so cotton could be made cheaper.



Picture 3: Arkwright's Water Frame



Picture 2: **Arkwright's mill** at Cromford. This was the first mill. Others copied his ideas and built similar factories and used his inventions.

Picture 4:
Blue plaque
which, today,
marks the
**place where
Arkwright
lived** in Adam
Street, London



Evidence FOR Arkwright deserving the title 'King Cotton'

Give each piece of evidence a rating by circling a number. 5 = very important, 1 = not important

Evidence	Not important					Very important
1) He had as many as 5000 people working for him and organised them well.	1	2	3	4	5	
2) He kept up with technological advances e.g. using water power, then steam power.	1	2	3	4	5	
3) He was made a knight, 'Sir Richard', by King George III.	1	2	3	4	5	
4) He wore silk waistcoats.	1	2	3	4	5	
5) He was prepared to take risks.	1	2	3	4	5	
6) He built himself a really big house, Willersley Castle.	1	2	3	4	5	
7) His funeral cortege was watched by 2000 people.	1	2	3	4	5	
8) He kept going when others would have given up, working 16 hours a day.	1	2	3	4	5	
9) He was able to adapt other people's ideas.	1	2	3	4	5	
10) He knew how important it was to obtain financial support.	1	2	3	4	5	
11) When he died, his personal fortune was £½ million.	1	2	3	4	5	
12) He knew how important it was to have his inventions patented.	1	2	3	4	5	
13) He saw that factories were needed and built the first cotton mill in 1771 at Cranford Mill.	1	2	3	4	5	
13) By 1785 about 30,000 people were employed in factories using Arkwright's inventions	1	2	3	4	5	
14) From 1991 the UK Arkwright Scholarships Trust gives about 400 annual scholarships to aspiring leaders in engineering and technical design.	1	2	3	4	5	

Extra challenge: 

Colour code any evidence that shows he meets the criteria to be seen as historically significant:

1. **changed something** that had a big impact on people's lives
2. **they were remembered** and talked about today.
3. Their life **reveals something** valuable about that period of time

Going Deeper: 

In what main way does he seem to be significant?

- Did he change the way people lived/worked?
- Did he impact the lives of people in the future?
- Did other industrialists follow his example to change more people's lives?
- Did people believe he was significant at the time?
- In what way has he been remembered?
- Can we learn a lot about the beginning of the Industrial Revolution from his life?

**Evidence AGAINST Arkwright deserving
the title 'King Cotton'**

Give each piece of evidence a rating by circling a number. 5 = very important, 1 = not important

Evidence	Not important					Very important					
1. He was only a barber/wigmaker by trade.	1	2	3	4	5						
1. He had no real knowledge or training in the cotton industry so he must have got his ideas from other people.	1	2	3	4	5						
1. He was not the only person to build factories.	1	2	3	4	5						
1. He stole other people's ideas, especially John Kaye's, the clockmaker.	1	2	3	4	5						
1. He didn't care about other people, as long as he made money.	1	2	3	4	5						
1. In 1785 he lost the rights to his patents because it was proved in court that others had developed similar machines earlier.	1	2	3	4	5						
1. He only became rich because his workers worked such long hours.	1	2	3	4	5						
1. He persuaded other people to tell him their secrets which he then used to make his fortune.	1	2	3	4	5						
1. Some people thought he charged too much for use of his patents and he took people to court if they used his designs without paying him.	1	2	3	4	5						

Extra challenge: 

Colour code any evidence against him meeting the criteria for significance:

1. **changed little**
2. **forgotten.**
3. **Doesn't reveal much**

Going Deeper: 

What is the main reason you think that his significance could be over exaggerated?

- Was it his knowledge, skill and determination skill that changed cotton production?
- Should others be given more credit for the changes that were made?
- Did he make lives better or worse?
- Did his success come at other people's expense?

Sir Richard Arkwright



Summary from the Secondary page of the **Cromford Mill website:**

<https://www.cromfordmills.org.uk/secondary-school>

SUMMARY

- Arkwright's water frame invention, mill design and factory production model was so successful that other mills across Europe and in the USA were built using his plans and designs
- Arkwright successfully made the spinning water frame work by the effective spacing and weighting the rollers to maintain an even yarn.
- Unlike Hargreaves spinning jenny it could be operated by unskilled workers
- Arkwright's factory model brought all processes together in one place, preparing, weaving, spinning

Sir Richard Arkwright



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**What is not mentioned in this summary?
Why?**

Sir Richard Arkwright

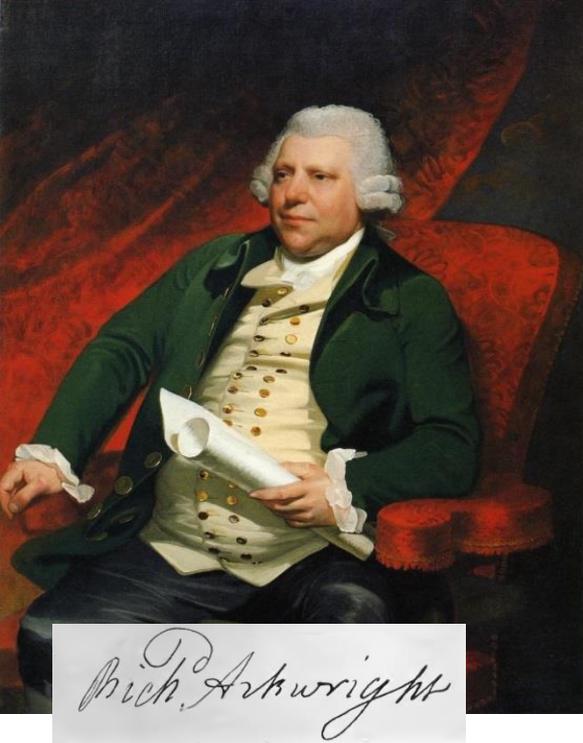


SUMMARY

- Arkwright's water frame invention and factory design was **so successful that other mills were built using his ideas and machines**
- Arkwright successfully **made the spinning water frame work** to make good cloth
- Unlike the Spinning Jenny machine it could be **used by unskilled, cheap workers**
- Arkwright's factory **brought everything to make cotton together in one place**, preparing, weaving and spinning

Summary from the Secondary page of the **Cromford Mill website:**

<https://www.cromfordmills.org.uk/secondary-school>



King Cotton or Spin Doctor?

Write an email to Cromford Mill Website explaining how significant you think Arkwright is:

1. Why you agree that he was significant and in what way (did his ideas **result in change** in industry and people's working lives? Is he **remembered**? Does studying his life **reveal** anything important about the past?)?

Dear curators of Cromford Mill,

I agree to some extent that Arkwright is historically significant because

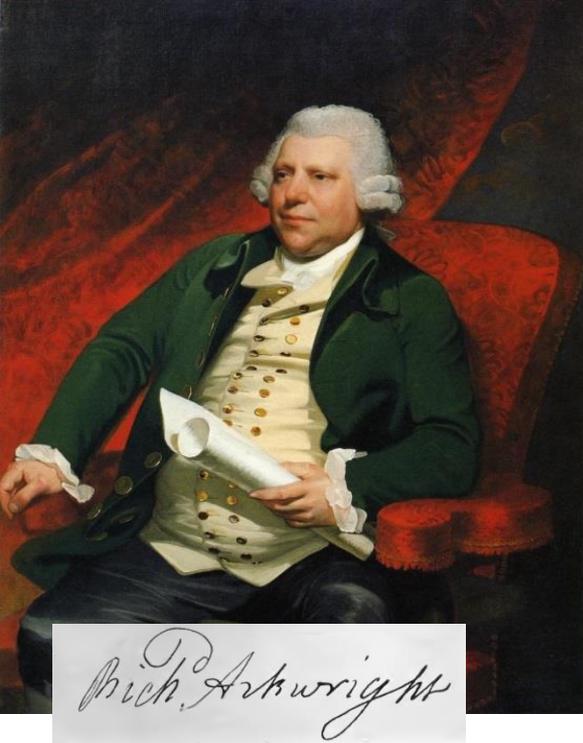
2. Whether you think that his significance has been overemphasised and why (were they his inventions? What happened to his patents? Did he change workers lives for the better?

However his significance has been overstated because

3. what you think the summary of Arkwright should say on the website to give a more accurate view of his significance

Your summary of Arkwright on your website would be more accurate if it said

Because this would make sure people understood that.....



Write an email to Cromford Mill Website explaining how significant you think Arkwright is:

1. What did Arkwright do to make him significant? What did he change? How do people remember him? What can we learn about the changes to industry at that time?

***Dear Cromford Mill,
Arkwright is historically significant because***

2. How has his significance been exaggerated?
However, your site makes him sound too significant because you did not say that.....

3. How significant do you think he is?
Your site should say that he is (still quite, very, not very) significant because

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Picture 1

Signature of Arkwright image on first slide
By Richard Arkwright - Internet Archive - Doctor Johnson and Mrs Thrale p. 167, Public Domain,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=45885898>

Portrait of Arkwright on first slide
By Mather Brown - The Athenaeum: Home - info - pic, Public Domain,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=10595857>

Picture 2

Permission details Attribution-ShareAlike 2.5
Arkwright's mill at Cromford
By Gregory Deryckère - Own work, CC BY 2.5,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=782780>

Picture 3

This file is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported license.

DescriptionArkwright-water-frame.jpg **English:** An example of Arkwright's water frame that was made in 1775 and acquired by the Manchester Museum of Science and Technology in 2006 with the assistance of the Heritage Lottery Fund and Prism Fund.

Date 3 July 2008 (original upload date)

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Picture 4 was reviewed on 22 August 2014 by [FlickreviewR](#) and was confirmed to be licensed under the terms of the cc-by-2.0 by Wikipedia.

DescriptionArkwrightBluePlaqueAdamSt2012DianeGriffiths.jpg

English: Blue plaque marking the occupancy by Arkwright in Adam Street, London

Date 5 October 2012, 21:58:57

Source <https://www.flickr.com/photos/59931313@N04/8059089744/>

Author By Diane Griffiths -
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