

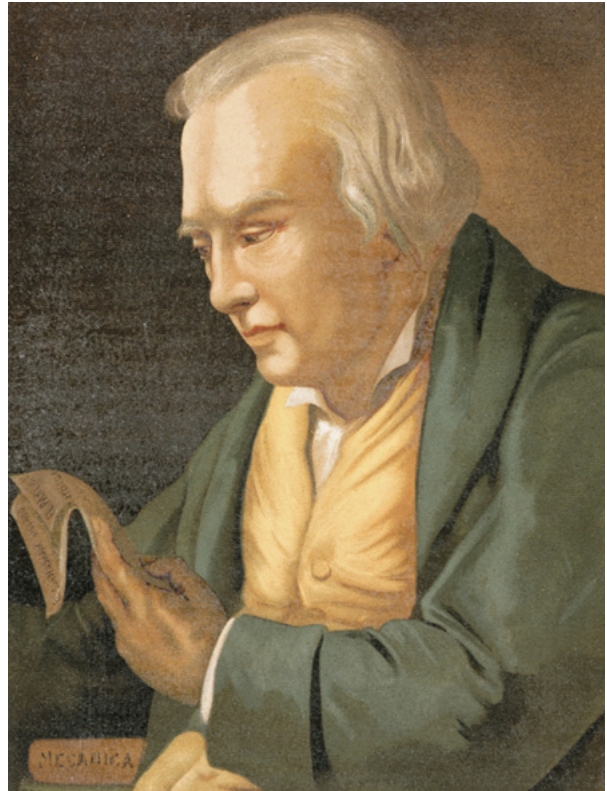
Biography Activity

Industrialization and Nationalism

James Watt (1736–1819)

James Watt was a Scottish inventor and mechanical engineer. His improvements to the Newcomen steam engine helped advance the Industrial Revolution. In 1757, he became a mathematical instrument maker for the University of Glasgow, where he developed his lifelong interest in steam engines. Watt realized that a great deal of energy was wasted in contemporary steam engine designs. In 1765, Watt enhanced the design by introducing new innovations that dramatically improved the power and efficiency of steam engines. These improvements brought about increased demand for Watt's engines in coal mining, textile manufacturing, transportation, and several other industrial fields. The steam engine increased productivity in many industrial areas, such as paper mills, flour mills, cotton mills, iron mills, distilleries, and canals and waterworks.

More About the Image: An unknown artist painted this portrait of the Scottish inventor James Watt.



- 1. Drawing Conclusions** How did Watt's improvements to the steam engine advance the Industrial Revolution?

- 2. Making Connections** Why did the demand for his engines increase?
