

# LIVING BY BELLS



For people who worked in factories, their lives were regulated by bells. Bells told them when to get up in the morning, when to eat their meals, when to be at work, when they could take a break, and when they could go home at the end of the day. Some people say that schools started using bells because they wanted kids to get used to living their lives by them. That way, when they went to work in the factories when they grew up, they would be used to following the bells.

The schedule below was used at the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company in Manchester. What does it tell you about life for factory workers?

TIME TABLE	
— OF THE —	
AMOSKEAG NEW MILLS,	
Arranged to make the Working Time throughout the year average	
11 HOURS PER DAY.	
COMMENCE WORK, - - - - -	at 6.30 A. M.
LEAVE OFF WORK, - - - - -	at 6.45 P. M.
Except on Saturday Evenings, at 4 o'clock.	
BREAKFAST, - - - - -	at 6.00 A. M.
DINNER, - - - - -	at 12.00 M.
COMMENCE WORK, after Dinner, - - - - -	at 12.45.
BELLS.	
Morning Bells.	
FIRST BELL, - - - - -	4.30 A. M.
SECOND, - - - - -	5.30 A. M.
THIRD, - - - - -	6.20 A. M.
Dinner Bells.	
RING OUT, - - - - -	12.00 M.
RING IN, - - - - -	12.35.
Evening Bells.	
RING OUT, - - - - -	6.45 P. M.
Except on Saturday.	
Saturday Evening Bell.	
RING OUT, - - - - -	4.00 P. M.

## Notice & Wonder

1. How many hours a day did most people work on average?
2. What time did workers eat breakfast?
3. What time did people get off work?
4. What was different about Saturdays in this schedule?
5. How much time did workers get for lunch? (Hint: Lunch is called dinner on this schedule)
6. How is this schedule the same as your schedule at school? How is it different?
7. Does your school use bells to let people know where they should be during the day? Is there a different way they could do that?

