

Student Plan for Facilitating a Discussion on the Topic of Luddites

- **Background on Luddites to present to the class**

Luddites were 19th century English artisans, people who created things by hand. They didn't like the new machinery of the Industrial Revolution because things could be made faster and cheaper by machines and they were put out of business. They tried to oppose the Industrial Revolution.

- **Questions to prompt discussion about Luddites**

How could the Luddites stop a movement as large as the Industrial Revolution?

- **Follow up question:**

Luddites often burned factories or smashed machines. What would you say to Luddites if you could go back in history?

How could the Luddites have been integrated into the Industrial Revolution?

Can you think of any modern-day Luddites?

If no one says anything, prompt them by suggesting groups such as the present-day Amish or the Hippies from the 1960s or ask them if they know anyone who rejects the use of certain common technologies such as cell phones.

- **Extra Question**

The Luddites make me think of the novel and movie, The Hunger Games. The people in the Districts had no power. They just wanted to live a simple life. Can you think of other books where characters were like the Luddites?

--from *This Is Disciplinary Literacy....* by ReLeah Lent