

## Spinning Jenny


There were other inventors before and around the time of Richard Arkwright. The first was probably James Hargreaves from Lancashire. He invented the “Spinning Jenny” in 1764-1765 with eight and later even more spindles, which was enough to spin enough yarn to match the modern fly-shuttle.

The yarn which could be produced with the Spinning Jenny, however, was not very strong. This only changed when Richard Arkwright invented the water-powered spinning frame or water frame. This was also the moment when the water from streams and rivers became essential to drive the new machines.

The true origin of these inventions and the identity of the inventors is not quite clear. Especially a Mr Thomas Highs claimed that he built the Spinning Jenny and that Richard Arkwright just copied some of his ideas. Others say that John Kay, a mechanic who had worked for both, Highs and Arkwright, was the rightful creator of the machines.

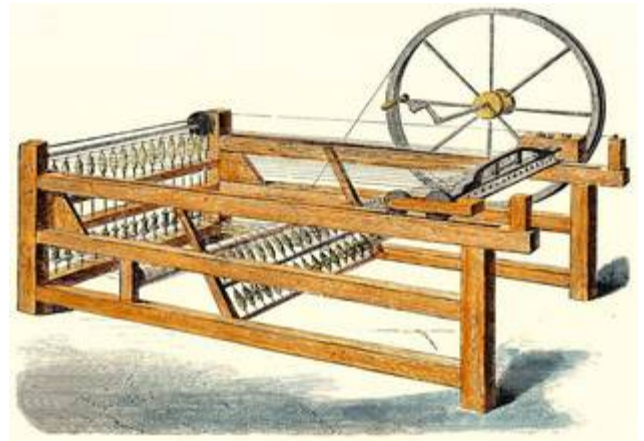
Richard Arkwright even lost the right on his exclusive patent, which would have given him a huge advantage over everybody else.

Richard Arkwright became a very important and very rich entrepreneur. If you travel around Derbyshire today you can still witness his achievements and his wealth: many of the mills, factories, workshops and houses which he owned can still be seen today. It is said, however, that he was not a very nice man and it was difficult to get along with him.

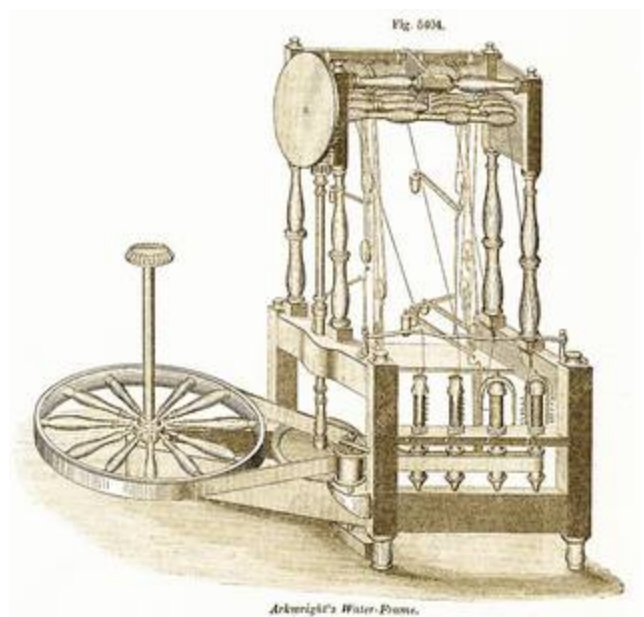
[compiled by  from information from wikipedia, some English museums and others]



*Spinning Jenny*



*the improved Spinning Jenny*



*Spinning frame by R. Arkwright*

## Spinning Jenny - Vocabulary

achievement Erfolg

advantage Vorteil

claim behaupten, angeben

entrepreneur Unternehmer

especially insbesondere

exclusive exklusiv

get along with sb. mit jem. auskommen

inventors Erfinder

match passen, entsprechen

mechanic Mechaniker

origin Ursprung

own besitzen

patent Patent

probably wahrscheinlich

wealth Wohlstand

witness Zeuge

## Questions

1. Which three inventors are mentioned in the text?
2. Why could the “Spinning Jenny” spin enough yarn for the fly shuttle?
3. Which power drove the “Spinning Jenny”?
4. Who created the “Spinning Jenny”?
5. Why did people not like Mr Arkwright very much?