

The Key TO THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM

BIRMINGHAM and the INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

The Industrial Revolution was a process of change in Britain that spread over nearly two centuries driven by scientific and engineering progress and was accompanied by changes in transport systems (Turnpike roads of 18th century to canals and then to railways), economic changes, the move from cottage style industries and craftsmanship, to mass factory based mass production. The spread of new ideas and ways of working, as represented by the Lunar Society of Birmingham, provided incentives for economic progress. There was a great movement of people to the growing industrial towns resulting in large areas of poor quality housing and urban pollution. Many families saw their fortunes increase, but there was oppression of the workers until the passing of the Factory Acts and Education Acts.

Key Information:

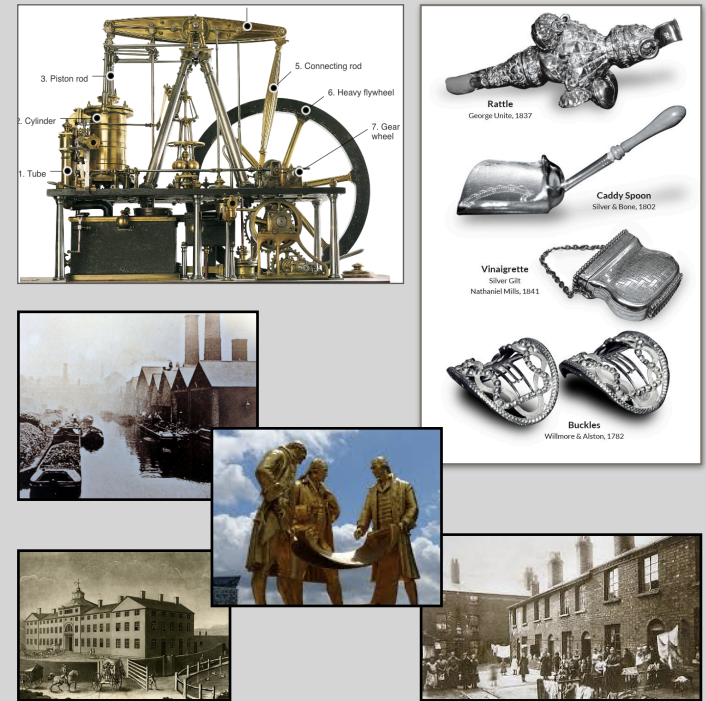
- Romans built roads to facilitate movement of troops, mail and trade across their empire.
- Roman roads were carefully surveyed, well built and had long straight stretches between sighting points.
- Domesday commissioners surveyed the land in Birmingham that Norman King William had conquered, to assess the value of his new holdings and to levy taxes.
- The Industrial Revolution was a time of great industrial, social and economic change. It lasted from early 18th century to Victorian times. During this period people moved from the countryside to work in the growing towns like Birmingham.
- Rows of terraced and back to back houses were built in Birmingham to house the workforce, but they became overcrowded and insanitary.
- During the Industrial Revolution the wealth of the nation increased and many people became prosperous. However others worked long hours, under harsh conditions for very little pay.
- Production of goods moved from cottage craft industries to mass production in factories.
- Working conditions in Birmingham were harsh, the hours long and the pay low. Women and children were preferred as workers as they cost the owners less in wages.
- Workhouses were established to accommodate the destitute, infirm and elderly.
- By the end of Victorian times social conditions were beginning to improve, Factory Acts protected the workers and children were required to go to school.

How do we know? Evidence:

- Historical records, maps, accounts, diagrams, museums, historical field investigations.

Vocabulary

Icknield Street	the Roman road that went from Droitwich, to Metchley roman fort, (near the University of Birmingham) through Sutton Park and onto join Watling Street north of Birmingham.
Domesday Book	a record made by King William 1 of the lands he had conquered. He sent out commissioners to establish who owned which land and how valuable their holding was in 1086.
Plough Team	a Domesday measure of farm size based on the area a plough pulled by eight oxen could plough in one day.
Turnpike Road	Turnpike Roads were established to improve the quality of 18th century roads. Travellers would have to pay a toll, but the money would be used to keep the road in a good state.
Lunar Society	a group influential wealthy men you would meet monthly in Birmingham to discuss science, philosophy, business, engineering and inventions.
Birmingham 'toys'	the name given to many of the small, mainly metal objects made in Birmingham, such items as snuff boxes, buttons, buckles, coins and badges. Birmingham had a tradition of making other metal objects like sword blades, scythes, nails, hammers, and a whole range of tools long before the 18th century.
Industrial Revolution	the process of change from a farming and cottage industry based economy to machine based factory mass production. In Birmingham men like Boulton, Watt and Murdoch were leaders in industrial progress.
Workhouse	a Victorian institution providing destitute, infirm and elderly people with basic food and shelter run under strict rules, e.g. families slept in separate dormitories meeting in church only on Sundays.



Images of the Industrial Revolution in Birmingham

Can you identify: Back to Back housing: Birmingham Toys: Canal (carrying coal): Soho Manufactory: Three famous engineers: Watt's steam engine?

National Curriculum:

a study over time tracing how several aspects of national history are reflected in the locality.