

History: Local History Study – Sheffield- Steel City

Year 5 Summer 1

Key Dates

1297: Tax records include Robertus le Coteler – Robert the Cutler.

1340: King Edward III's possessions in the Tower of London included a Sheffield knife.

1740: Benjamin Huntsman invented the crucible process.

1819: The Sheffield Canals opened.

1838: The Sheffield/Rotherham railway was completed.

1858: Bessemer steel production began.

1913: Harry Brearly invents Stainless Steel in Sheffield.



Key Vocabulary

Iron ore - rocks and minerals from which iron can be extracted.

Water wheel - a power source using water to turn a wheel.

Grindstone - a thick disc of stone used for grinding, sharpening and polishing metal.

Crucible - a ceramic container in which metals can be heated to high temperatures.

Furnace - an enclosed structure in which material can be heated to very high temperatures.

Bessemer's Converter - a steel making process which removes impurities in a blast of air.

Invention – the action of creating something new, usually a process or device.

Industry - the processing of raw materials and manufacture of goods in factories

Forge - a blacksmith's workshop; a smithy.

Key Facts

- During the Bronze Age, people started to settle in the Sheffield region.
- Sheffield was founded in the early 12th century with a population of a few hundred people.
- Sheffield is famous for producing steel; this is because of a variety of factors, both geographical and incidental.
- Sheffield has five rivers: The Don, Loxley, Rivelin, Porter and lastly, the Sheaf, from which Sheffield derives its name.

Website Links



Concepts

Change and continuity (History) – There were lots of things going on at any one time in the past. Some changed rapidly while others remained relatively continuous. We look at what brought change about and the effect of the change and what things have stayed the same and why this might be.

Environmental Geography – This considers how we use the natural world and how we have the ability to change it. The environment supports human life by providing raw materials that can present opportunities for economic development.

Why don't you...

- Work out which of Sheffield's five rivers is closest to you and plot a journey to visit it?
- Find evidence of Sheffield's industrial past when you are out and about and take a photo of it?
- Ask an adult at home if anyone they know or knew worked in the cutlery or steel industry?

Enquiry Questions

1. What is Sheffield famous for?
2. Why did Sheffield become famous for its cutlery?
3. Why did Sheffield become known as The Steel City?
4. How did cutlery and steel effect Sheffield?

Skills

Chronology:

Use dates and historical language in their work
Identify specific changes within and across different periods over a long period of time

Historical knowledge and interpretation:

Appreciate that significant events in history both national and local have helped shape the country we have today

Historical enquiry:

Test out a hypothesis in order to answer a question
Use evidence such as a source or artefact to give an explanation