

TASK 2: Guided reading – Manufacturing in Sheffield		
<u>L/O: summarise information from a non-fiction text</u>	What I think	My teacher thinks
<i>I can remember to:</i>		
Read the text.	☐	☐
Retrieve (find and record) relevant information.	☐	☐
Use vocabulary (words) from the text.	☐	☐
Punctuate my sentences correctly.	☐	☐
Answer in full sentences, referring to the text.	☐	☐

Read the text again and then have a go at fully answering these questions.

- 1) What do we know about when, and where, did people first live in Sheffield?
- 2) Describe Sheffield Plate.
- 3) What two developments took place in the steel industry in Sheffield?
- 4) Describe some of the problems encountered by people living and working in Sheffield.
- 5) How do you think Sheffield is different now? What has remained the same?

A brief history of manufacturing in Sheffield

The origins of Sheffield are unclear, but it is known that the kings of Mercia and Northumbria met in Dore in 829. A stone castle was built at the confluence of the Rivers Don and Sheaf in 1270. The area became known for the production of high quality metalwork, particularly swords and knives from the 1400s. Sheffield became England's best known source of cutlery of all kinds and even supplied cutlery to the Royal family!

In the 1740s a form of silver plating, known as Sheffield Plate, was developed and once again the popularity of the products created locally grew, and with it the working population, as even more people flocked to the city for work. Sheffield Plate is one of the city's more famous products, where layers of silver and copper coat steel items to create an appearance similar to solid silver (at a far more affordable price), meaning those on lower incomes could have 'silver' items in their homes.



Both crucible steel and stainless steel were developed in Sheffield. Thanks to this industry, Sheffield's population grew to ten times its size during the industrial revolution. Many who didn't work in the steel industry were employed in the coal

mines locally. Alongside the steel industry, services were also needed, such as shops, banks, schools, doctors, builders, transport, etc.

This rapid growth led to a lot of rapidly built, poorly made homes crammed into a small area, so when illness hit a few, it quickly spread, leading to hundreds dying in an outbreak of a disease called cholera in the 1800s. Sickness was a common part of life in slum areas of the city.

Sheffield became known for being an 'ugly' city thanks to the rapid growth and increased population through the industrial revolution, with cramped living quarters and large areas of factories and industrial buildings (and their associated air pollution). George Orwell famously called Sheffield 'the ugliest city in the old world' in the 1930s.



In contrast, there are now over 250 gardens, areas of woodland and parkland, and public gardens in Sheffield, and the city is now famed for having the largest population of trees per person in all of Europe.

The city is still famous for the metal-working and the steel created in many factories, as well as by craftsmen based in the area. The Sheffield region has gone on to become a centre for research into new manufacturing technologies.