

HISTORY



YEAR 5

HOW HAS SHEFFIELD EVOLVED OVER TIME?

The Big Picture

Sheffield is a city made from hard work. It has grown from the early farming villages of the Anglo-Saxon age to being famous for its metalworking mesters. The Steel City is a prime example of how the way people live was changed by the rise of industry. Children should study life Sheffield during the Tudor period and contrast it with life in the city after the industrial revolution to gain an understanding of how a settlement evolves over time.



End Point Knowledge

- Though people had lived or travelled along the River Sheaf since the Ice Age, Sheffield was formed by the coming-together of several Anglo-Saxon villages. Attercliffe, Hallam, Sheffield, Wadsley and Walkley are mentioned in the Domesday Book and surrounding documents.
- The village of Sheffield grew into a market town based around the castle. By the 14th century, Sheffield was already gaining a reputation for making quality knives. By the early 1600s, it was the largest cutlery producer outside of London.
- Mary, Queen of Scots was held at Sheffield Castle and surrounding strongholds (such as Manor Lodge) between 1569-1584. She began a friendship with the wife of her captor, Bess of Hardwick.
- Changing ideas about religion (Catholicism, Protestantism etc) caused social and cultural divides in the country.
- The Industrial Revolution (1760-1840) was a period of huge change. The rise of machines tools and mechanised factories led to manufacturing to become quicker and easier. Water and steam were used to power these machines using turbines. We get the word 'sabotage' from this period as a group of disgruntled workers sought to damage the machines by jamming the mechanisms with their shoes (sabot). Some examples of things that were made easier to produce in this time include: chemicals, cement, iron, glass, textiles and paper. Mining became a much larger industry. Transport was made easier through canals, improved roads and the invention of the railway and steamships.
- The shift from farming to factory working did not necessarily improve the standard of living for workers. Farming is a job where it typically takes as long as it takes. There would be a lot of time off, particularly in the short days of the winter. However, factory working typically lasted between 12-14 hours per day throughout the year. Many people did not get enough food. As more people moved to towns and cities for work, the standards in these urban centres decreased. They became over-crowded and clean water was difficult to come by. Diseases like tuberculosis and cholera spread quickly.
- Many of the steelworks were closed down in the 1970s and 1980s, which led to economic downturn that lasted for years.
- We know about this period because people have kept records (from the Domesday Book to inventories) and have written letters and diaries. Archaeologists have studied the castle site. We have paintings and maps. Evidence has been compiled by local historians like J. Edward Vickers.

Key Vocabulary

Sheffield, River Don, Tudor, castle, industry, blacksmith, forge, cutlery, iron, steel, mining, mesters