

Year 5 & 6 History – Local History Knowledge Organiser

Our local town is Stourbridge. Stourbridge is one of the towns that makes up the borough of Dudley, which is part of an area often referred to as the Black Country. It is known as this because during the Industrial Revolution, this area became one of the most industrialised areas of Britain and produced a lot of air pollution as the mills, foundries and factories used coal and steam to power engines. Our local area played a significant role in the Industrial Revolution due to the resources we had, and as a result, our local landscape changed significantly too.

Key Vocabulary

canal: an artificial waterway.

coal: a hard, black substance that is dug from the earth in lumps and used as a fuel.

colliery: a coal mine and the buildings associated with it.

construction: building.

foundry: a workshop where metal, such as iron, is melted and shaped into objects.

industrialisation: a change in society from agriculture to making things using machines.

Industrial Revolution: a time of great change in Britain from approximately 1760-1840AD.

limestone: a hard rock containing lime, a substance used in glassmaking.

locomotive: a railway vehicle.

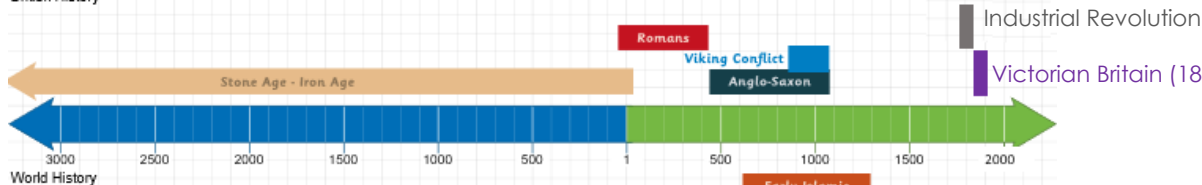
manufacture: make on a large-scale using machinery.

rural: characteristic of the countryside.

steam engine: an engine powered by steam.

urban: characteristic of towns or cities.

British History



World History



Coal production

As Britain became more industrialised, the demand for coal grew. Our local area was able to help as there was a large amount of easily accessible coal to mine. This meant the Black Country quickly became one of the most industrialised areas in Britain at the time and played a big role in the Revolution. However, it was a dangerous industry that affected the lives of people in the local area. One example was the Rounds Green Colliery Accident in 1846 where 19 people lost their lives.

Glass production

Glass production moved to Stourbridge and Dudley during the Industrial Revolution because of our supply of coal. There was also lots of good quality sand and limestone nearby; resources needed to make glass. Stourbridge became famous for its glass production and part of it became known as the Crystal Mile. Thomas Webb and Frederick Stuart were significant names in glassmaking during this time.



Canals

The local canals were important in the Industrial Revolution as they provided a quicker and more efficient way of transporting resources and goods, such as coal and limestone, around the Black Country and Birmingham. The movement of resources around this area led to it being known as the workshop of the world. The use of canals declined with the invention of the railways and larger road vehicles towards the end of the Industrial Revolution.

Railways

Railways were developed throughout the Industrial Revolution and allowed the Revolution to continue. The first railroad steam locomotive to operate in the US, the Stourbridge Lion, was manufactured in Stourbridge. The Agenoria was built at a similar time and used in England. Stourbridge Junction rail station initially opened in 1852 and Stourbridge Town in 1879, although the original stations do not stand as they were relocated and rebuilt.

