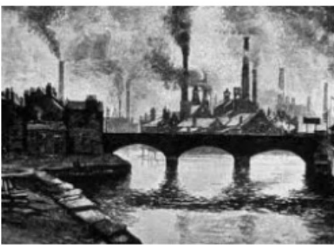


Industrial Revolution in Birmingham

The Industrial Revolution was a time of invention and change across the whole of the country that had a huge effect on the way people lived and worked. The Industrial Revolution caused Birmingham to grow significantly in size as it became central hub for manufacturing. Joseph Watt and Matthew Boulton were two significant figures in the growth of the area. During this time, child labour was also a common practice.



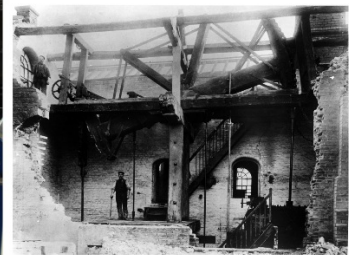
James Watt

James Watt was an engineer, chemist and inventor who invented and enhanced a new and more efficient steam engine. He later partnered with Matthew Boulton and together, they used and sold stationary steam engines for use in factories. Later in life, Watt experimented more with the use steam power and created a document copier.

The Smethwick Engine at the ThinkTank is a James Watt Engine.
It now the oldest working engine in the world.

Key Dates:

- 1762 - Matthew Boulton opened the Soho works in Handsworth
- 1765 - James Watt invented the steam engine
- 1766 - Matthew Boulton moved to Soho House
- 1775 - Watt and Boulton entered into a partnership
- 1801 - Roughly 71,000 people live in Birmingham
- 1821 - The population of Birmingham had doubled to about 142,000 people
- 1833 - The Factory Act was passed, making it compulsory for children working in factories to have 2 hours of school a day
- 1838 - The London to Birmingham Railway Line was fully opened
- 1841 - About 296,000 people lived in Birmingham



Topic Vocabulary:

Agricultural - To do with farming and keeping animals

Child labour - Employment of children in a business

Manufacture - To make something on a large scale with machinery

Industry - Manufacturing goods in factories

Population - Number of people in a place

Produced - Made by someone/something

Significant - Important

Trading - Buying or selling things

General historical vocabulary:

Account - Someone's version of events

Bias - An opinion for or against something or someone in a way that could be seen as unfair

Chronological - In time order

Continuity - A state where everything stays the same.

Evaluate - to look over evidence and form conclusions

Interpretation - A way of understanding events

Primary source - An artefact or account taken from a historical period

Secondary source - A source of information that was created after a historical period

Reliable - Whether someone/something is truthful and accurate

Useful websites:

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/victorians/industrialrevolution.html>

https://kids.kiddle.co/Industrial_Revolution

https://kids.kiddle.co/History_of_Birmingham

Matthew Boulton

Matthew Boulton was a manufacturer and entrepreneur. He built the Soho Manufactory which was famous for manufacturing small items of metalware which were considered as toys at the time. During his life, he also entered into a partnership with James Watt and took their steam engines worldwide.



Child Labour

During this period, many employers relied on child labour to run their businesses. Children were cheaper to employ than adults and easier to discipline. The work they completed was hard and often very dangerous. There were no laws at that time to protect children from employers taking advantage of them.

