

What is industry?

- The production of goods, especially those made in factories.
- The part of industry that involves the production of steel, coal, or large goods such as aircraft is called heavy industry.
- The part of industry that involves the production of small goods, for example electronic equipment, is called light industry

Where is the Black Country
Where is Birmingham



Where is the Black Country Where is Birmingham



Where did the black country get it's name from?

- It's said that the Black Country gained its name in the mid-nineteenth century from the smoke from the many thousands of ironworking foundries and forges.
- The region was described as 'Black by day and red by night' by an American Elihu Burritt in 1862.
- Black from the thick smoke, Red from the fires keeping the factories working.
- This period of time from around 1750 to 1870 was called 'The Industrial Revolution'. The Black country became a very important area in this period.
- The population went from being agricultural to industrial. This meant people moved off of the farms and out of the country. There were huge numbers of people that moved into cities. Many people were forced to move to the cities to look for work.

What industries have historically been in Birmingham and the Black Country?

- We are going to look at a variety of artefacts (objects/images) to give us clues about the types of industries that have been in Birmingham and the Black Country.
- When we look at each artefact you will be given a couple of minutes to discuss it with your partner predicting what industry it might represent. Think of what questions you might want to ask about each artefact.



Coal

- **Coal provided the fuel for smelting and processing iron. It was also used to fuel the boilers. Chain making also flourished and developed as mines needed chains.**
- **The 30-foot seam of 'thick coal' was to make the Black Country a prosperous area. This was the only resource of its kind anywhere in the country. In places the coal reached the surface and had been mined for centuries. Main centres were Sedgley, Coseley, Bilston, Wednesbury, Netherton and Halesowen**
- **There were as many as five or six hundred small pits in the Black Country.**



Glass

- The Black Country became known throughout Britain and the World because of Chance Brothers Glass manufacturers. This company was founded in 1824 in Spon Lane, Smethwick. During the 19th century it became one of the most important glassworks in Britain.
- Ordinary glass is made from white sand and powdery chemicals known as soda and lime.
- In a glass factory, the glass ingredients are heated in a large furnace at high temperatures until the mixture becomes a thick syrup. When this syrup cools, it is glass. While the glass is still in a melted state, it is shaped into many useful things. Nowadays machines roll the hot glass into flat sheets for windowpanes. Other machines mold, blow and press gobs of molten glass into bottles, drinking glasses, light bulbs and other glass objects. In olden times all these objects were made by humans who had to make them without the use of machines.



Leather

- The Black Country town of Walsall has been the leather capital of Britain for over 200 years, and at its peak there were more than 75 firms producing saddles, bridles and other goods. The leather produced by these firms became so synonymous with the towns culture, that the football team earned the nickname “The Saddlers”.



Iron and Steel Factories

- In 1850 there were about 200 blast furnaces and 2000 wrought iron puddling furnaces in the Black Country, supporting mills, forges and foundries. The area was the worlds leading iron producing region and there was no iron working or product in which the Black Country was not involved.
- The Black Country, was especially famous for its manufacture of the anchors and anchor cables. The anchor and cables of the ill-fated Titanic, which sank on its maiden voyage in 1912, were made in the Black country



Pen Making

- The Birmingham pen trade evolved in the Birmingham Jewellery Quarter and its surrounding area in the 19th century; for many years, the city was the centre of the world's pen trade. The pen they made was the 'Dip Pen', a pen you dipped into ink.
- 1830's Joseph Gillott, Josiah Mason, John and William Mitchell became major manufacturers.

1860's about 100 companies involved in the trade, although 12 of the larger ones dominated, employing large numbers of women in purpose built factories centred on the Birmingham Jewellery Quarter.
- 1950's Decline of trade with competition from fountain and ball-point pens.