



# Birmingham



## Vocabulary

<b>canal</b>	A man-made waterway used by boats.
<b>central business district</b>	The main business and commercial area of a town or city.
<b>coal</b>	A black or brown rock that can be burnt.
<b>coat of arms</b>	A picture, usually on a shield used to represent a person, family, city or country.
<b>city</b>	A large town, which has been granted the right to be a city by the King or Queen.
<b>craftsmen</b>	Person who is skilled to make something.
<b>industry</b>	An industry is a group of businesses that make or sell similar products or perform similar services.
<b>industrialisation</b>	the process of developing industries in a country
<b>manufacturing</b>	Manufacturing is the process of making products, or goods.
<b>market</b>	A gathering of people to buy and sell goods.
<b>population</b>	The number of people who live in an area.
<b>regeneration</b>	The process of being redeveloped.
<b>trade</b>	The action of buying and selling goods and services.
<b>trader</b>	A person who buys and sells goods.

Dear parents,

Our next Humanities topic is a Geography unit called '**Birmingham**'. Please help your children to prepare for this topic by learning some of the key words and the facts on this sheet.

There are some homework activities on the back of this sheet. Your child can complete these at any time. Your child's teacher would love to see what they have created.

Thank you for your support,  
Kind regards,  
Year 3 Teachers

### Selfridges Building Fact

This building has 15,000 aluminium disks on the outside of it.



### Rotunda Building Fact

This cylinder-shaped building was built in 1965 and is 81 metres tall.



### Library Building Fact

The Hobbit, by JRR Tolkien, who spent his childhood in Birmingham was the first book to be put on the shelves of this new library.



### Early history of Birmingham

In the 6<sup>th</sup> Century (the years 500-600), Birmingham was a very small settlement located in thick forest. It was home to a tribe lead by Birm or Beorma.

The **de Birmingham family** were the lords of Birmingham from around 1150 for four hundred years. In 1156, Peter de Birmingham got permission from the king for Birmingham to have a weekly **market**. Lots of traders and **craftsmen** then came to live in Birmingham.

Over the centuries Birmingham became famous for making metal objects such as buckles for shoes, nails, pins, screws, guns and locks. You can see a metal worker on Birmingham's **coat of arms**.

Today, Birmingham is the UK's second biggest **city**.



## Canals

Birmingham's **canals**, mostly built in the 1700s and 1800s were used to transport **coal**, iron and other heavy goods into the city and things made in the **city** to other parts of the country. By 1980, all the businesses had stopped using the **canals**. They are no used today by walkers, cyclists and narrowboat owners. Many narrowboat owners decorate their boats. See the image below.



## Homework Ideas:

- Sketch or make a model of a famous building in Birmingham, such as St. Martins Church, the rotunda or the Selfridge's building.
- Design a new coat of arms for Birmingham.
- Research something that Birmingham is famous for, such as making jewellery, and make a presentation about your findings – you could use paper and make a poster, use PowerPoint or Prezi to create a slideshow, or make a video clip – the choice is yours!
- Design a new logo for one of the Birmingham football clubs.
- Design and make your own canal narrowboat – remember to decorate it and give it a name.
- What facts can you research about J.R.R. Tolkien? Present these how you like.
- Longbridge is famous for the cars that were made there. British Leyland, Austin, Rover and MG all made cars there. Look at some of these cars like the Austin Metro and sketch it or make a model of it.

# Is Birmingham still the workshop of the world?

## Longbridge history and car production

**Roman times** – This area was used as a safe place to cross the River Rea.

**1727** – A long bridge was opened which carried traffic on the Bristol Road across the River Rea. People had to pay to use this bridge.

**1894** – The printing firm of White and Pike built a factory here. They lost money and closed the factory in 1901.

**1906** – Herbert Austin (who came from Australia), bought the factory and started making cars here.

**1914 – 1918** – During the first World War, the car factory made shells, guns and armoured cars.

**1930** – The factory made a thousand cars per week.

**1939 – 1945** – During the second world war, again the factory was used to make shells and small military vehicles like trucks and ambulances.

**1959** – The mini car was launched. Over 5 million of these were sold.

**1980** – The first Austin Metro car was made.

**2005** – Car production stopped in Longbridge as the company ran out of money.

**2008** – MG motors began to build cars again on this site.

**2016** – All car production stopped at Longbridge.

## Where is Birmingham?

Birmingham is in the West Midlands region of England.



The Austin Mini was manufactured at the Longbridge plant in Birmingham.