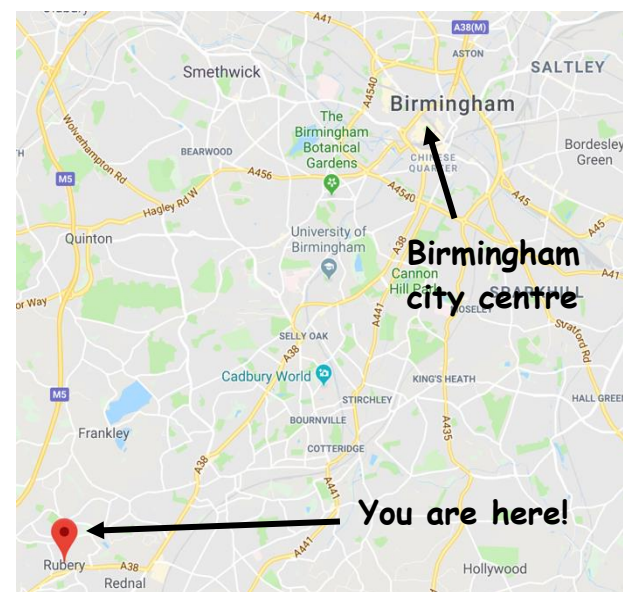


## Where is Birmingham?



## Year 3 Geography/History Unit 3

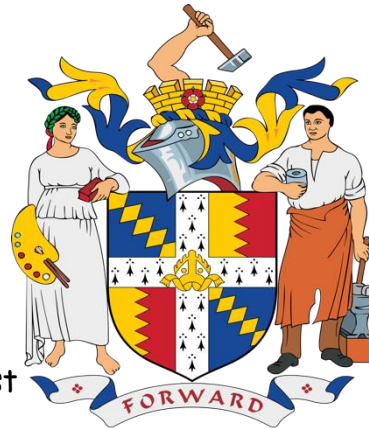
### Early history of Birmingham

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**.



### Key vocabulary

- canal** - A man made waterway used by boats.
- coal** - A black or brown rock that can be burnt.
- coat of arms** - A picture, usually on a shield used to represent a person, family, city or country.
- city** - A large town, which has been granted the right to be a city by the King or Queen.
- cocoa** - Dried seeds from the cacao tree from which chocolate is made.
- craftsmen** - Person who is skilled to make something.
- De Birmingham family** - A family who were lords of Birmingham for over 400 years. They helped Birmingham grow from a small village into a large market town.
- population** - The number of people who live in an area.
- market** - A gathering of people to buy and sell goods.
- trader** - A person who buys and sells goods.

### Birmingham means...

Birm = tribal leader/ warrior  
ing = of the people  
ham = home

Home of the people/tribal leader

### Facts about Birmingham

**Population** = 1.1 million people  
Birmingham is the UK second biggest city.  
Birmingham has more miles of **canals** than Venice.  
There are 30 other places called Birmingham around the world and even 1 crater on the moon!

### Cadbury's Chocolate in Birmingham

- 1824 - John Cadbury opened a grocer's shop in Birmingham. He sold coffee, tea, drinking chocolate and **cocoa**. He sold these as he wanted to stop people drinking alcohol.
- 1831 - John Cadbury opened a factory so he could produce more chocolate.
- 1861 - John Cadbury became ill and he gave his two sons (Richard and George) his business.
- 1875 - Cadbury makes its first Easter Egg - This was made of dark chocolate and was filled with sugar coated chocolate drops known as 'dragees'
- 1878 - Work began to create a new, larger factory. They wanted their workers to live away from pollution and the dirty **city**. They built new houses, with lots of green space for their workers. This place was called Bournville.
- 1897 - Cadbury made its first milk chocolate bars.
- 1905 - Cadbury Dairy Milk was first sold.
- 1955 - The first Cadbury TV advert was shown.
- 1990 - Cadbury World was opened. This allowed people to see around the factory. It hosts over 500,000 visitors each year.



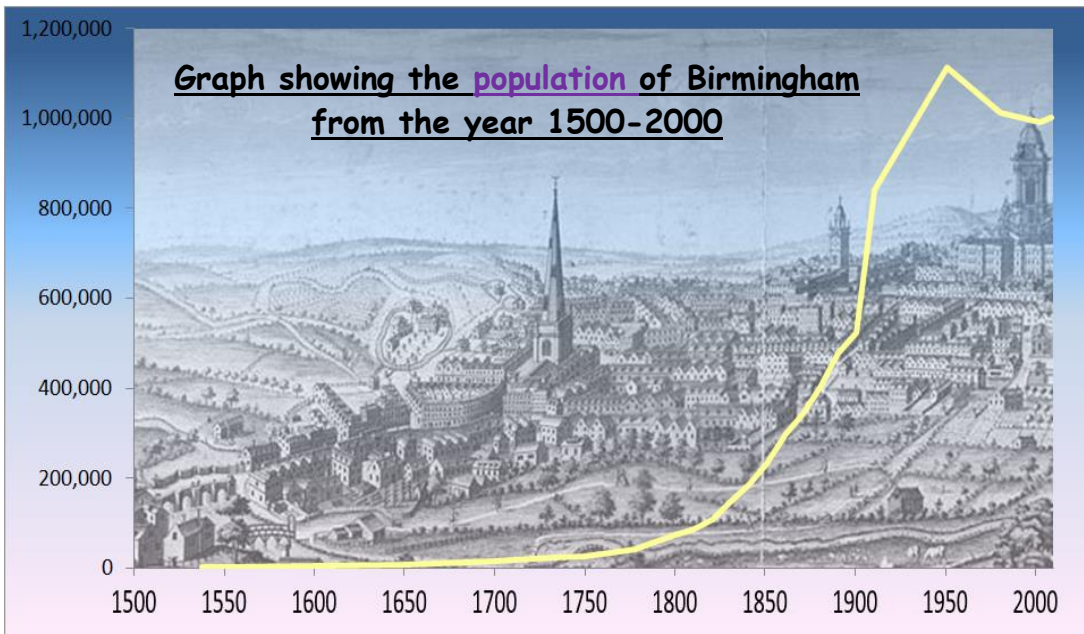
Dear Parents,

Our next topic is *City Life - Birmingham*. Please help your children to prepare for this topic by helping them to learn the key words (in purple) 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



**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.

**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.



**The BT Tower Fact**

The BT Tower is Birmingham's tallest structure at 152 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.



**J.R.R. Tolkien (1892-1973)**

- \* J.R.R. stands for John, Ronald, Reuel.
- \* He was born in South Africa to two British parents.
- \* He spent much of his early childhood growing up in Birmingham.
- \* He fought in World War one as a soldier.
- \* After the war, he worked, with other people, on writing the Oxford English dictionary.
- \* He became a famous writer, writing stories such as Lord of the Rings, the Hobbit and Farmer Giles of Ham.



**A photo of an Austin Mini**



**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**

- (1) Sketch or make a model of a famous building in Birmingham, such as St. Martins Church, the rotunda or the Selfridge's building.
- (2) Design a new coat of arms for Birmingham.
- (3) 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!
- (4) Design a new logo for one of the Birmingham football clubs.
- (5) Design and make your own canal narrowboat - decorate it and give it a name.
- (6) Design a wrapper for a new Cadbury's bar of chocolate.
- (7) What facts can you research about J.R.R. Tolkien? Present these how you like.
- (8) 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.



**REMEMBER TO BRING INTO SCHOOL ANY HOMEWORK THAT YOU COMPLETE TO SHOW YOUR TEACHERS.**