

Building Bolton: Up Your Street Teachers Resource

Map of Greater Bolton¹



This map was produced in 1790 and shows Greater Bolton. Before 1830, the town was run by two authorities and was split into Greater Bolton and Little Bolton. They were separated by the River Croal which ran through the town centre. On the map you can see the river and the main high street, Bradshawgate.

You can also see the fields around Bolton. At this time many people made their living through agriculture. You can see the enclosures marked out on the map. There was also a small textile industry in the town at this time. Nine years after this map was produced Samuel Crompton invented a cotton spinning machine known as the Spinning Mule. This machine revolutionised the cotton industry and changed Bolton forever.

Where has the River Croal gone, do you think that it still runs through Bolton today? The river does pass through Bolton town centre, running underneath Knowsley Street; the Market Place and Bridge Street.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

- Find your home and school on the large aerial map in the exhibition.
- Learn about Samuel Crompton's spinning mule by visiting Hall i't Wood
<http://www.boltonmuseums.org.uk/hall-i-th-wood/>
<http://www.boltonmuseums.org.uk/collections/local-history/local-life/samuel-crompton/>

¹ For larger images please see the PDFs available on the website

Bolton from Queens Park, about 1897



This picture demonstrates the growth of industrialisation and its effect on the Bolton landscape. The Town Hall can be seen in the middle of the painting, it is surrounded by hundreds of mills and factories. The sky is dark and filled with smog created by pollution. The picture shows Bolton at the height of its industrial power.

The machinery in Bolton mills and factories was powered by coal and steam and the town became famous for the soot and grime produced by its multitude of chimneys.

Allen Clarke

The effects of the Factory System (written in 1895-6)

'Let us stand in Bolton Park, which is like an isle of dingy green in a black sea, the charm of the place being utterly obscured by the fact that from whatever part of it you raise your eyes meet a prospect of smoky towers. Looking south, we can count nearly 200 tall chimneys, rising ugly over a mass of brick buildings, that look as if they had stood for years in a climate where it rained ink every day....In 1770 Bolton was a fair hamlet; a hundred years have made it into a ugly town.'

Painted by Samuel Towers (1862-1943) from Queens Park in 1897, the view shows many of the new developments which changed the appearance of the town from the 1850s. You can see the new Parish Church built in 1871, the Town Hall completed in 1873 and the Royal Infirmary finished in 1883.

What do you think it would have been like to live in Bolton at this time?

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

- Compare *Old Bolton 1790* shown in the exhibition with this painting? What changes have occurred in one hundred years?
- Use this interactive website to make some decisions as a cotton mill owner - will you make money or get sent to debtors jail.

http://www.bbc.net.uk/history/british/victorians/launch_gms_cotton_millionaire.shtml

Bolton Terraces, about 1937-50

Purchased with assistance from MLA/V&A Purchase Grant and Bradshaw Gass Trust © Humphrey Jennings/ DACS 2008



Bolton terraces were built in the Victorian period for the thousands of people who moved to Bolton to work in the mills and factories. Millions of people lived in poverty whilst a lucky few amassed enormous wealth.

Boom towns, like Bolton, were built for industry and trade; not for people. Homes are thrown up in a hurry without a thought for their dwellers. Bolton became an economic powerhouse but a town of extremes.

The census of 1851 recorded that half the population of Britain lived in towns. The towns offered a better chance of work and higher wages than the countryside, where many families were trapped in poverty and seasonal employment. On the other hand, the countryside was healthier. A baby born in a large town in the 1820s might expect to live to 35 - in the 1830s, life expectancy was down to a miserable 29.

Large towns were desperately unhealthy. New epidemics took hold - cholera and typhoid were carried by polluted water, typhus was spread by lice, and 'summer diarrhoea' was caused by swarms of flies feeding on horse manure and human waste. The problem was easy to identify and difficult to solve. Too little was invested in the urban environment, in sewers, street paving and cleansing, and in pure water and decent housing.

After an outbreak of cholera in 1848, town officials were forced to face up to the need for an urban planning policy. The Bolton Improvement Act was brought in. A Markets Committee was formed on November 9th 1850, permitting stalls for goods. A sanitary committee was appointed and the River

Croal was cleaned and paved by the Sewerage Committee in 1860. The Rhodes farm Sewerage formally opened on August 26th 1899.

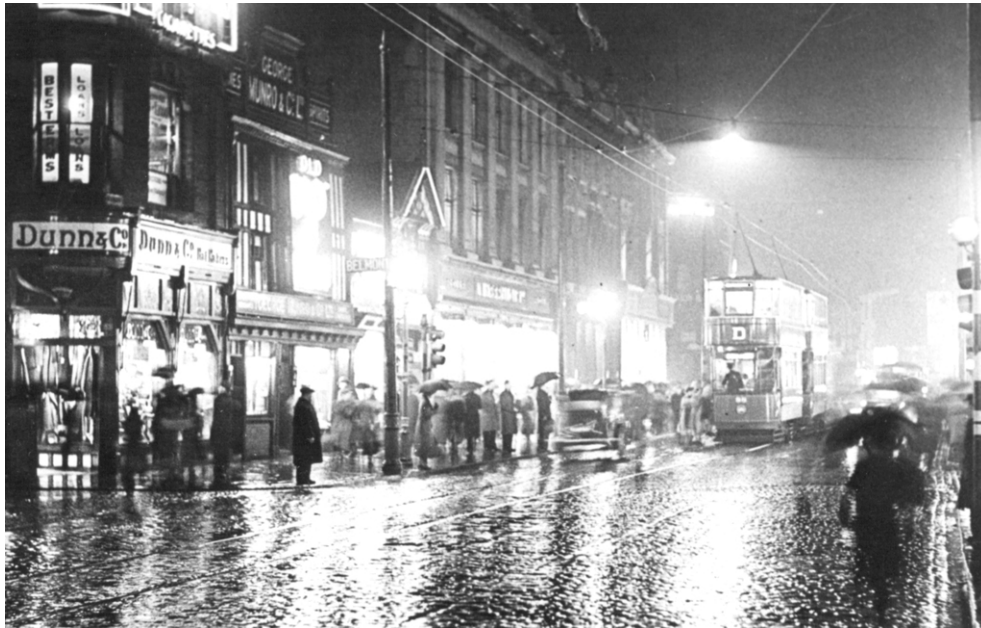
SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

- Learn about what it was like to live in the terrace streets of Bolton by listening to the oral history extracts.
- Use this interactive website to make some decisions as a town councillor - will you build a town hall or improve terrace housing?

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/trail/victorian_britain/social_conditions/act_muck_brass_entry.shtml

Past and Present: Photographs

Mealhouse Junction, Bolton town centre, 1936



Mealhouse Junction, Bolton town centre, 2008

© Rene Lumley



Look at these two photographs of the town centre. Spot the difference. What has changed? What has stayed the same?

Electric Avenues – Bolton tramways

The late Victorian period saw the dawn of widely available electricity in Britain. At this time, Bolton's suburbs were also spreading ever further from the town centre. As the town's population grew, a new form of transport was urgently needed.

Bolton Corporation decided an electric tram system was the cheapest, cleanest and fastest way of transporting people around the town. Bolton's first electric tram service began in December 1899 and ran from Shiffnall Street to Tonge Moor. The town was one of the first places in the North West to run electric tramways. On board were councillors, eager members of public and a policeman to stop overcrowding.

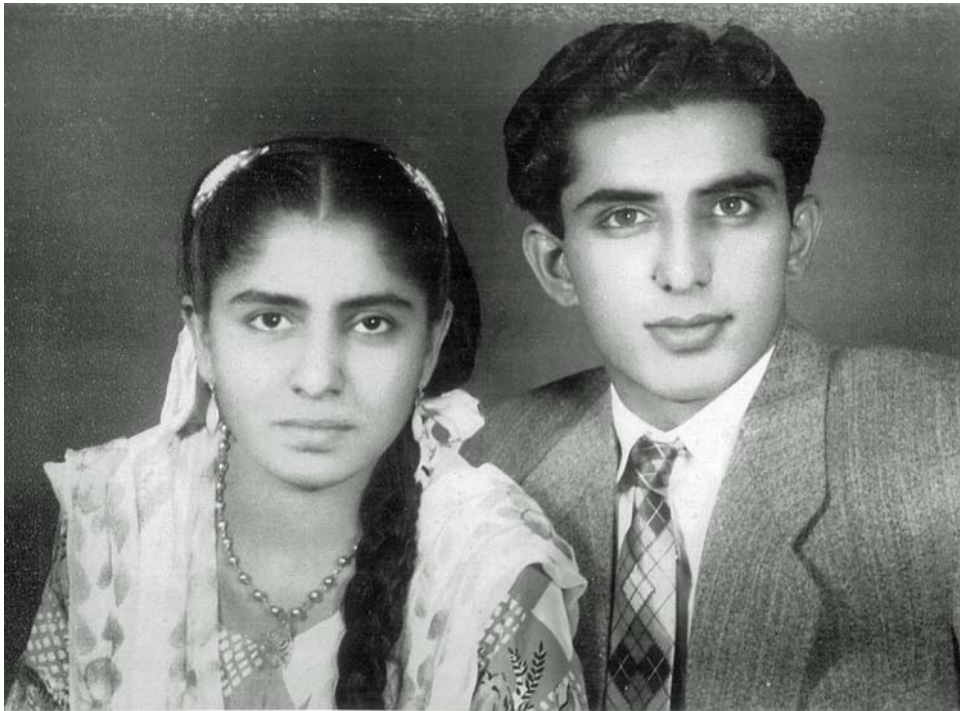
The character of many of Bolton's streets was greatly changed with the appearance of thousands of electric tram cable poles. All the main roads entering Bolton were widened to at least 60 feet, making them suitable for tramway operation. Trams were a way of life for locals and a familiar feature on the streets of the Bolton area until the last tram ran on March 1947.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

- Compare and contrast past and present photographs in the exhibition or on the website <http://www.bolton.org.uk/thenandnow.html>
- Spot the tram signs in the exhibition. These wooden signs were reversible. The tram driver would change the sign when he got to the end of the line so passengers could see the destination. What do you think it was like to be a tram driver?
- Do you think that trams are an effective way of getting around? Do you think that Bolton should reintroduce the tram?

Photograph of Mr and Mrs Atcha

© Rene Lumley



'I arrived in England in 1967; ten years after my husband came to live in Bolton. My husband and I came from the village of Barbodhan in India.'

'We first lived in Deane Road, above my husband's shop, which he set up with his brother in 1964. It was the first halal butcher's shop in Bolton. Before that Muslims had to go to farms to buy chickens and prepare them according to their faith. The shop on Deane Road was knocked down but we still have a halal butchers, it is a family business.'

'I had no idea what Bolton was like before I came here. When I first arrived I did not like it. It was cold and the houses had no heating. I missed Barbodhan and still think of it now but Bolton is my home. I like the area that I live in now there are more Indian shops it is easier. In the 1960s I used to wear crimpoline trousers and Polo necks because I could not get Indian clothes.'

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

- Why do you think that people come to Bolton?
- Find out more about this community visit <http://www.barbodhan.org.uk/>

Photograph of Yu Min Kang

© Rene Lumley



The only item that Yu Min Kang brought with her when she fled North Korea with her mother was a traditional Korean Dress is called a hanbok. Hanboks are worn by Koreans of all ages, particularly on traditional holidays.

North Korea is considered to be a military dictatorship and its people are heavily controlled by the government. North Koreans do not have the same rights and freedoms that British citizens have. Yu Min Kang was not allowed to study music and had little freedom of expression. Some people who have spoken out against the government including Yu Min's uncles have been imprisoned. Her relatives were taken to prison and have not been heard from since. When Yu Min left North Korea she wanted to bring her musical instruments but they were too large to carry.

She carried the hanbok in a rucksack through China and Europe and finally arrived in Britain in January. Her first impression of Bolton was that it had a diverse community; this made her feel more welcome and at home. She has recently been offered a scholarship to study at the Royal Academy of Music and now has the opportunity to follow her dreams.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

- Find Yu Min Kang's hanbok in the exhibition.
- Learn about the stories of other refugees who have come to Bolton. What were their reasons for coming?
- What would you take with you if you had to leave your home and country?

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Key Stage 2

History

Knowledge, skills and understanding

Chronological understanding (1a)

Knowledge and understanding of events, people and changes in the past (2a)

Historical enquiry (4a)

Breadth of study

Victorian Britain or Britain since 1930s (11)

Local history study (7)

Unit 12: How did life change in your locality in Victorian times?

Unit 18: What was it like to live here in the past?

Unit 13: How has life changed since 1948?

Geography

Knowledge, skills and understanding

Geographical enquiry and skills (1c, 2d)

Breadth of study

Carry out fieldwork investigations outside the classroom (7)

Unit 6: investigating your local area

Citizenship

Knowledge, skills and understanding

Preparing to play an active role as citizens (2 a,e,i)

Developing good relationships and respecting the differences between people (4 a,b,e,f)

Unit 5: Living in a diverse world

Key Stage 3

History

Key concepts

Chronological understanding (1.1)

Cultural, ethnic and religious diversity (1.2)

Change and Continuity (1.3)

Cause and consequence (1.4)

Key processes

Using evidence (2.2 a,b)

Range and Content

British history (3f,h)

Curriculum opportunities (4a,b,c,e)

Unit 11: Industrial changes action and reaction

Geography

Key concepts

Place (1.1a,b)

Physical and human processes (1.5a)

Cultural understanding and diversity (1.7)

Citizenship

Key concepts

Identities and diversity: living together in the UK (1.3)

Range and content (3 i,j)

the changing nature of UK society, including the diversity of ideas, beliefs, cultures, identities, traditions, perspectives and values that are shared

migration to, from and within the UK and the reasons for this

Unit 4: Britain – a diverse society?