



# History Knowledge Organiser

Spring Term

The Black Country - A Local Area Study

Year 5

## Key Knowledge

Learn this information

## Key Vocabulary

Understand these key words

### The Black Country

Today, the Black Country is described as the four Metropolitan District Council areas of Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton. The term is used as a marketing tool to sell and promote the West Midlands region to the north of Birmingham. The Black Country gained its name in the mid nineteenth century due to the smoke from the many thousands of ironworking foundries, in addition to the working of the thick coal seams.



### Mining in the Black Country

The Earl of Dudley, who lived at nearby Himley Hall, once owned most of the land at Baggeridge. At the height of coal production, the pit at Baggeridge employed 3,000 men, produced 12,000 tons of coal per week and claimed to be the most productive and modern pit in the world.



### Workhouses

Workhouses were common during the Victorian era. They were huge buildings, designed to accommodate 1000 poor people who either could not get a job or who were not well enough to work. Poor, unemployed, able-bodied people were expected to enter a workhouse to live and work. The alternative was being homeless, begging for food or money, or the constant threat of being put in prison! Men, women and children all lived in separate parts of the workhouse. Most of the children were orphans. They had lessons for three hours every day; the subjects taught were arithmetic, reading, writing and Christian religion. Meals mainly consisted of bread, broth and cheese. Twice a week, meat was included. If someone broke the rules, they would often have to go without a meal or two as a punishment!

### Who was Queen Victoria?

Queen Victoria served as monarch of Great Britain and Ireland from 1837 until her death in 1901. Victoria's reign saw great cultural expansion; advances in industry, science and communications; and the building of railways and the London Underground. Under Victoria's reign, Great Britain experienced unprecedented expansion in industry, building railways, bridges, underground sewers and power distribution networks throughout much of the empire. This enabled the area of the Black Country to have many factories built, which also led to people wanting to move to live in the area so that they could work.



Vocabulary	Definition
Workhouse	These were large buildings where the poor lived in exchange for work.
Black Country	An area of The Midlands, which gained its name due to many factories built during the Industrial Revolution.
Child labour	When children were able to go to work.
Mining	This is the process of digging up coal.
Reign	A monarch's (King or Queen) rule.
Victorian	Something that happened during the reign of Queen Victoria.
Working conditions	This is the working environment; how safe it is and how much workers get paid.
Industrial revolution	A time of change from mainly farming to an industry with lots of factories and manufacturing.
Poverty	When people do not have enough money to live comfortably.

## Key Knowledge

### Learn this information

1837	Queen Victoria's reign began.
1842	The Mine and Collieries Act forbade women and girls to work underground and introduced a minimum age of ten for boys working in mines.
1864	Children under 10 can no longer work as chimney sweeps.
1870	Schools are built for children aged 5-10.
1880	A law was passed making it compulsory for all children between the ages of 5 and 10 to attend school. This was called The Education Act.
1895	The Earl of Dudley began looking for coal, following the explosions of his other mining pits.
1901	Queen Victoria died.
1912	Mining at Baggeridge Colliery started in full production.
1930	Workhouses were officially closed and became hospitals or care homes.



## Key Concepts

<b>Society</b>	A group of people living together within a community.
<b>Culture</b>	The ideas or behaviours of a particular group of people/society.
<b>Trade</b>	The action of buying or selling goods.
<b>Monarchy</b>	A form of government that has one ruler, usually either a King or Queen.
<b>Ruler</b>	The person in charge and makes overall decisions for a country or empire.
<b>Technology</b>	The development of equipment or machinery.
<b>Kingdom</b>	A country, state, or territory ruled by a king or queen.
<b>Nation</b>	A large body of people united by common descent, history, culture, or language, inhabiting a particular country or territory.

## Chronology

