

Geography Year 4 Spring — Why was Sheffield built here?

Key knowledge to know and use

Sheffield, in the county of South Yorkshire, is the 4th largest city in England with 600 000 people living here. The city is in the eastern foothills of the Pennines, and the valleys of the River Don and its four tributaries, the Loxley, the Porter, the Rivelin and the Sheaf.

Sheffield was once the iron, steel and cutlery capital of the world.

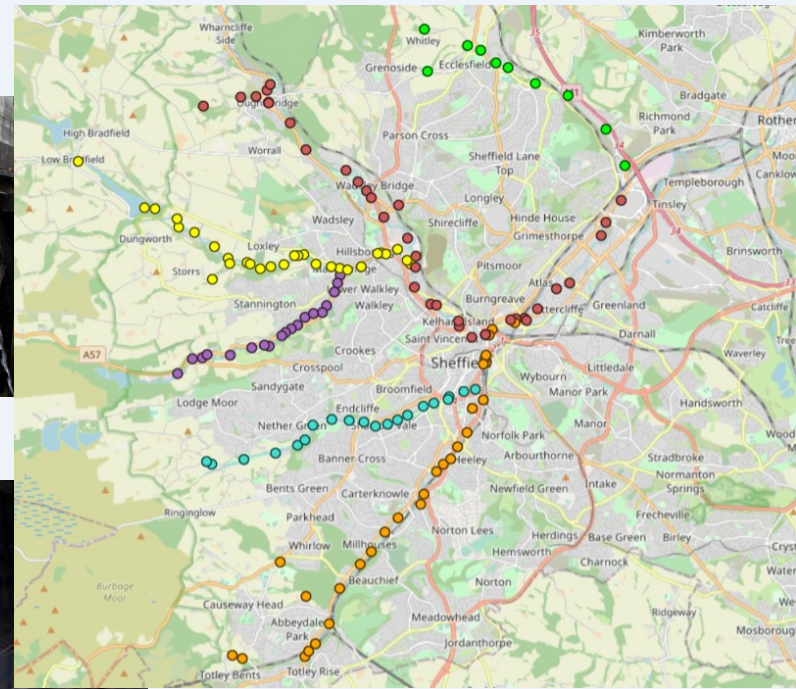
The city's hills provided it with the necessary **raw materials** for the industry that led to it becoming known as 'Steel City': coal, iron and **millstone grit** for the grinding wheels of its workshops. Its hills and rivers provided the water power it needed in the days before steam, while its forests supplied it with plentiful supplies of wood and **charcoal**.

Steel works were built in Attercliffe on flat land next to the river because the raw materials and power needed were available there.

Production of steel in Sheffield declined from the 1980s onwards because of cheaper imports of steel from the Far East—India and China.

Land from the former steel works has been **regenerated** and amenities including Meadowhall, The Arena and Centertainment have been built on sites where steelworks used to be.

Compare old and new maps of Sheffield including the human and physical geography of Sheffield.



This map, shows all the waterwheels and dams in the Sheffield area dating from the 1200's to the 1930's all using water power to drive tilt hammers, blowers for forgers, grinding wheels for sharpening knives and scythes as well for the milling of corn and other grains.

Key vocabulary to remember and use in your learning

Word	Definition
raw materials	Materials or substances used in the primary production or manufacturing of goods.
resource	Any physical material forming part of Earth that people need and value.
millstone grit	An informal term for a number of coarse-grained sandstones which are to be found in the Peak District and Pennines of Northern England.
charcoal	Charcoal is produced by heating wood or bone in little or no air. Charcoal is used as a fuel and for drawing.
regeneration	The long term upgrading of existing places for urban, rural, industrial and commercial areas.



Kelham Island Museum was opened in 1982 to house the objects, pictures and archive material representing Sheffield's industrial story.